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The Long Island FISHERMAN

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May 10th, 1979 ★ Volume 14, Number 19 ★ 14th Year of Publishing ★ FIFTY-CENTS

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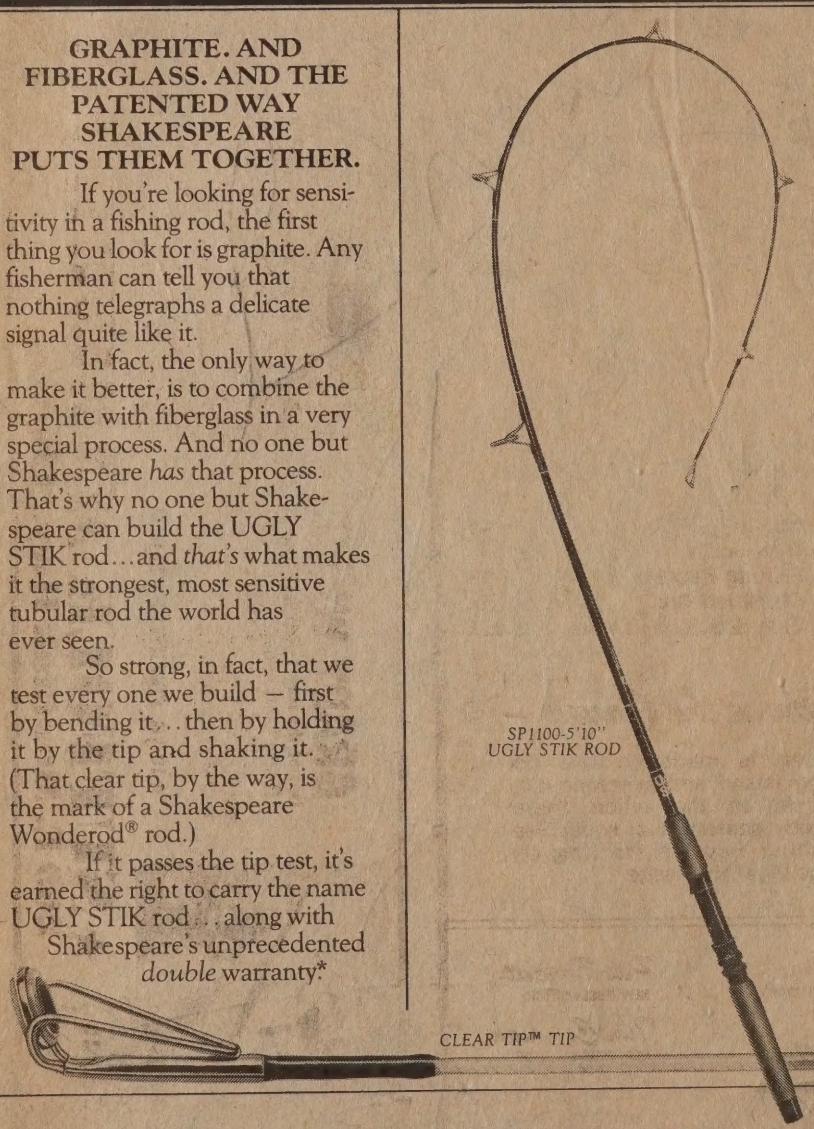

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

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COMING NEXT WEEK:

SPRING BLACKFISH

About the Cover—

Spring is mackerel time on Long Island and everyone can get in on the action these speedy gamesters provide. See Fishing Reports starting on page 29 of this Issue.

Richard Reina — PUBLISHER
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Dr. Wm. A. Muller — EDITOR
Al Ristori — CONSERVATION EDITOR
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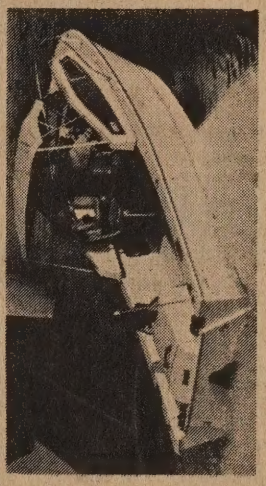

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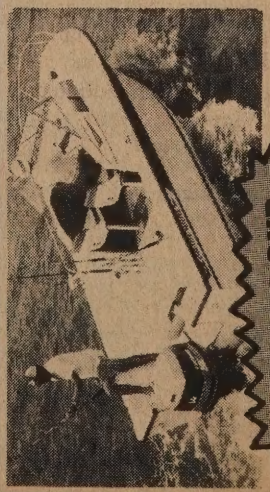

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The Fighting Chair

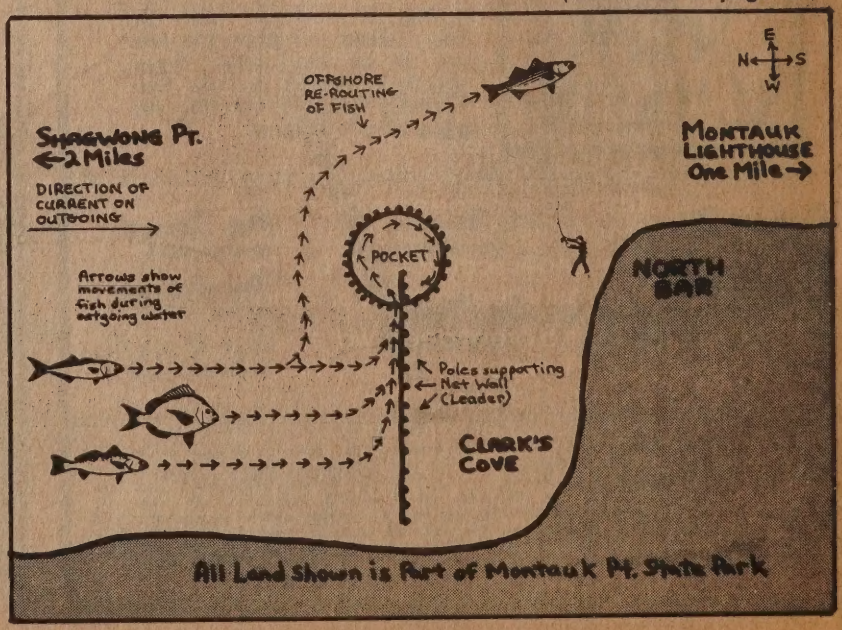
NEW THREAT FROM COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN: FISH TRAP ERECTED AT NORTH BAR, MONTAUK

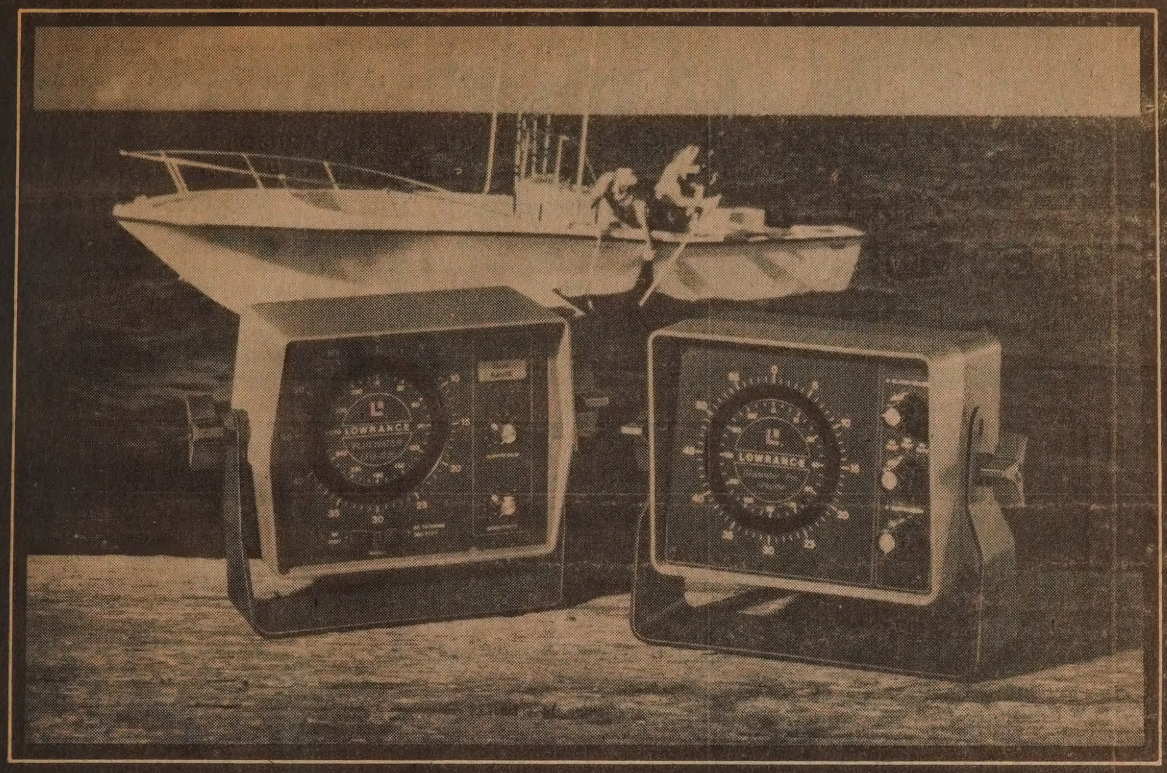
Last week we received several phone calls from readers asking us about the rumors that a fish trap had been constructed on what is probably the most popular and productive surf fishing spot on Long Island—the North Bar at Montauk, which is a point of land about a mile "north" of the Lighthouse. What follows is a brief synopsis of the investigation the staff of L.I.F. made, the actions that were taken, and where the situation stood as we went to press with this issue. But first, we should explain just exactly what a fish trap is and how it works, for the benefit of those who are unfamiliar with this particular commercial fishing technique.

The basic concept of a fish trap is hundreds of years old and has remained virtually unchanged due to its simplicity. It works on the principal that fish swimming parallel to a beach will instinctively seek deeper water when confronted with an obstacle in their path. A fish trap capitalizes on this instinctive action by placing a wall of netting (which is supported by poles) at a right angle to the beach. When confronted with this obstacle in their path, the fish turn seaward and swim alongside this net "leader" as they seek deeper water—thus laying the trap. (See diagram.) The net wall acts to "lead" the fish into a maze of netting that culminates in a pocket from which they cannot find their way out. Depending on the habits and intelligence of each species, the fish trap has varying degrees of effectiveness. For example, traps are particularly effective on weakfish and porgies, while being almost worthless for catching striped bass. Bass usually don't fall for the "trap," being intelligent enough to circumnavigate the maze and pocket. But it's important to note that even though a trap will not catch all the fish that come in contact with it, those that aren't nevertheless will be RE-ROUTED.

Quite honestly, we would have discounted the rumor had it not been for its source, Johnny Kronuch, because we believed—erroneously—that it was impractical. Our first thoughts were that perhaps some fishermen had mistakenly referred to a gill netting operation as being a fish trap. But when we were informed that someone as knowledgeable and respected as

(Continued on page 49.)





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CHUM LINES

COMMENTS ON FISHING FROM STERN

Finally! You devoted an editorial to my age-old gripe of party boat captains (mates) reserving stern spots for their regular customers.

A sorry situation that has been long overdue in exploring and you whitewashed it.

There is something wrong when a fisherman will arrive at a dock (I'm thinking of Montauk, of course) at least *six* hours before sailing time, find a deserted parking lot, and then a stern studded with "dummy" rods, broom handles and gaff poles giving you the choice of either settling for a side spot or hassling with a mate if you decide to replace his broom handle with your rod.

I do not accept the premise that the reserved spots represent absent fishermen who are sleeping down the road in a nearby motel.

Obviously they are the "regulars," the semi-professionals, as you put it, who either call in advance or whisper in the mates' ears that "they'll be back next week and set me up in the usual spot."

Unfortunately, this is hard to take when you find yourself shivering in a parked car for the first few hours before the boat opens and knowing you're paying the same as the "pros" and yet all is not equal.

Obviously, there is some legitimacy to my beef since you readily admit receiving quite a bit of mail on this subject.

And now to counter your statement that the fisherman makes the spot rather than the reverse, allow me this:

I am not a sharpie or hot-shot pool winner, but I have been fishing steadily for over 30 years. I have averaged four to five Montauk trips per year and consistently have been close to the top five high-men on every trip, so I can safely consider myself an experienced, competent angler.

... and contrary to what anyone can write or say to me—when a boat is anchored in a normal current with normal wind conditions, the stern (corner to corner) will accumulate fifty percent of the total catch. I cannot remember when the high hook (not to be confused with the pool winner) was not in the stern.

I have strong feelings that the advantages of fishing the stern is not a myth or mystique.

Your point is well-taken that because the better fishermen congregate in the stern, naturally more fish will be taken—but this is only partially the reason.

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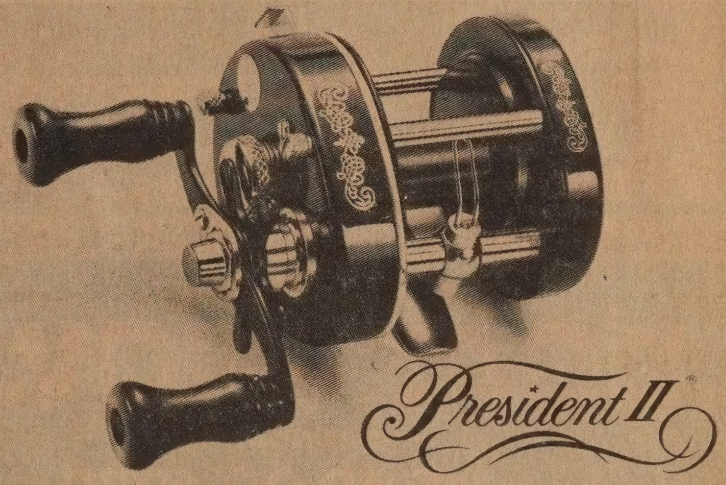

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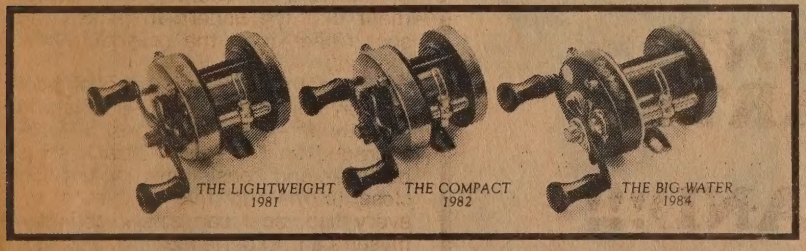

THE COMPACT 1982.

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days (wish *I* could experience it), in most cases the boat will be anchored and invariably the lines will be pulled towards the rear of the boat. Those on the stern will have their lines out in front of them = better leverage, better line control, less tangles, more fishing time, bait is seen first by cod moving up-current = more fish.

Those who fish the sides combat—again I generalize—a swinging boat; lines out, lines in, lines under the boat, poorer line control, more tangles = less fish.

I and others like me have been, in many cases, totally frustrated when all the action would seemingly end 2 rods up from the corner. Sure, I've caught fish, my three to their ten. Casting out is not the total answer since the angle of the line towards the rear will create the situation of a sinker to walk, and if your reports are accurate a dead sinker (bait) will catch-attract more cod.

Sorry Scott, too many trips and personal experiences have totally convinced me, have *proved* to me, that under usual conditions the *same fishermen* in the stern will considerably outfish themselves if they move to a side or bow position.

And the solution? Well, what is the drawback to first come-first served?

I appreciate the drawback that regulars who patronize one boat steadily should get some kind of preferential treatment, but should it be at the expense of others who pay the same, but don't fish quite as much?

I leave you with two final points:

1) If it is true that a *good* fisherman will catch the same regardless of the location on the boat, why is it that the good fishermen still head for the stern?

2) Suggestion: how 'bout airing your comments regarding the sportsmanship?? of trolling with umbrella lures!

Regardless of my differences on this particular article, allow me to say in parting that you, personally, write solid readable columns. I enjoy the publication immensely and hope your new dolled-up cover will not raise my subscription prices. *Bob Lauro, Brooklyn, NY.*

If you re-read the editorial "Myth and Mystique of Fishing the Stern" in Issue #16, you'll find that it is clearly stated that I believe fishing from the stern DOES make a difference when the boat is anchored. We don't know the solution to the problem, but we did list a few possible alternatives. Concerning your comment on "Sportsmanship" and trolling with umbrella lures, we covered this subject in depth in the editorial "Whatever Happened to Sportfishing" in Issue #5, dated Feburary 1 of this year. Scott S.

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Presented by Eadie Van Nostrand Associates under the direction of Ms. Van Nostrand and Rick Tafuro, the show will have numerous boating accessories in addition to the boats.

Show hours are 11AM to 9PM on Friday and Saturday; and 1PM to 6PM on Sunday. Admission will be $3.25 for adults and $1.75 for children under 12.

4-WHEEL DRIVE TALKS

Van's 4x4 Conversion of L.I., once again is offering any fishing club, to come to their meetings for a talk on 4-wheel drive vehicles, their care and feeding, maintenance, repair, etc. George, the President of Van's 4x4 Conversion will answer any and all questions. To reserve a night, clubs or groups should call 516-842-7333.

Contests & Tournaments

8TH ANNUAL SHARK TAG TOURNAMENT

The Montauk Marine Basin is pleased to again invite all fishing clubs and anglers to participate in the 8th Annual Shark Tag Tournament to be held at Montauk on July 21 and 22. Entries are limited to 150 boats; first come, first served. Applications being accepted now.

Docking facilities at the Marine Basin will be available to tournament participants. Due to limited dock space, berths will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

This year's entry fee will be $135 per boat. There will be no anglers fees, but each boat must list all anglers on application. Each boat entered will receive one slab of bait and one can of chum per day. Any entrant who desires additional bait or chum than is provided and included in the entry fee, it will be available. Prices for additional bait and chum will be at prevailing rates payable on delivery.

A meeting of anglers will be held on Friday, July 20, at the Marine Basin big boat building at 8PM sharp. At this time the boat numbers, tournament badges and literature will be distributed. General conduct and questions concerning the tournament and rules will be answered and explained at this time.

The entry fee includes two tickets to the clambake dance party on Saturday, July 21, 8PM, at the Marine Basin dockside. Additional tickets are available at $13.50 each. Early dinner reservations are suggested. Applications are available from the Montauk Marine Basin, Box 610, Montauk, N.Y. 19954.

CLUB NEWS

PATCHOGUE FISHING CLUB, INC.

The Patchogue Fishing Club, Inc., held its Annual Flounder Tournament on Sunday, April 22, 1979 in Moriches Bay. Approximately thirty members competed for top four biggest flounder. All members caught fish ranging from the buoys near Smith Point Bridge in Mastic to the first bridge in Westhampton. Bloodworms, mussels, and hard clams produced equal catches and chumming with mussels seemed invaluable. Top four fishermen and their catches were Bob Schoen—1 lb. 11 oz.; Wuz Maginnes—1 lb. oz.; Chester Ozwareck—1 lb. 5½ oz., and Joel Runkel with a 1 lb. oz. flounder.

Our next club tournament will be a weakfish contest held during May in Great South Bay.

OAKDALE SPORTSMENS CLUB

The following are the results of our first tournament of the 1979 season for the Oakdale Sportsmens Club.

Flounder Tournament—Sunday April 22, 1979. Fishing limited to the Great South Bay.

Ladies:

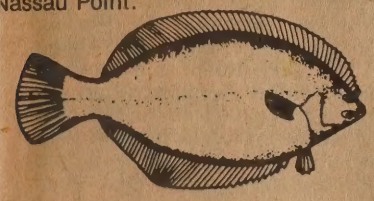
Marge Divan, 1.9.
Kathy Ebbrecht, 1.3½.

Connie Varone, 1.1½.

Men:

1st Place (three-way tie)—1 lb. 6 oz.: Bernie Tolmie, Don Bergman and Jim Ebbrecht.

Jim Ebbrecht tied the club record with a flounder of 2 lbs. 8 oz., caught in the Peconic Bay off of Nassau Point.



BOATING

PUBLIC EDUCATION COURSE

Registration for a free Sailboating Course will take place Tuesday, May 29 at 7:30 p.m. at South Shore High School, Rm. 440, 6565 Flatlands Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y.

For reservations, please call Vice Commander Bill Moser at 434-6904, from 6PM.

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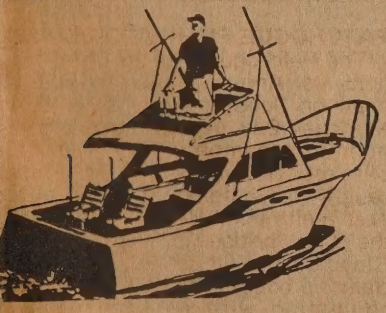

NEW BOOKS

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NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

Baltimore Canyon Drilling A Dud So Far

For years, some environmentalists and many area politicians, fought the leasing of oil drilling rights in Baltimore Canyon, off the Jersey Coast. Now that exploratory work has been under way for over a year, it appears that the entire effort was a waste of time on the part of both the oil companies and those concerned about the effects oil drilling would have on the area. So far the companies have sunk billions into lease purchases and actual drilling costs—and come up with nothing! The only positive result was obtained by Texaco. However, that was a discovery only of natural gas, and there is still no indication whether the quantity involved is commercially feasible.

Early in April, Exxon USA capped its second exploratory well in the area, making a total of twelve dry holes for all the companies involved. While Exxon is still working on a third well, four companies (Shell, Gulf, Continental and Houston Oil & Minerals) have given up entirely after hitting eight dry holes among them. Exxon has a particularly big stake in the Canyon, as they spent around $350 million for their leases: and have invested over $60 million in actual drilling operations. As a result of these initial poor experiences, the latest round of lease sales brought much lower prices. The companies are now keeping their fingers crossed that they don't run into the same situation when they start drilling on Georges Bank.

Of course, this entire picture could change overnight if a single strike was made. Some of the biggest fields have been discovered only after dozens of dry holes were drilled. However, the enormous costs associated with deep-water drilling are likely to discourage the kind of "never give up" attitude that prevails in dry land exploration. If that's the case, it will be a disappointment to the increasing number of Canyon fishermen. Not only would these rigs act as artificial reefs on relatively barren bottom, but they would also sharply improve the safety factor for all offshore fishermen. At present, there are only four wells being drilled along the edge of the shelf—one each by Exxon, Texaco, Tenneco, and Mobil.

President's Call for Department of Natural Resources Stirs Controversy

President Carter has announced that he intends to submit to Congress his long-awaited reorganization plan for Federal natural resource programs. The idea is to incorporate all of the natural resource functions currently spread throughout several departments into a new Department of Natural Resources. Basically, this would be the present Interior Department, with the addition of certain functions from Commerce and Agriculture.

With an anticipated budget of $7.4 billion and a staff of 89,800, the new Department would include:

U.S. Forest Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Mines
Bureau of Reclamation
Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Park Service
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
Office of Territorial Affairs
Office of Water Research and Technology
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

The Secretary of Natural Resources would also serve as Chairman of the Water Resources Council, which has a major coordinating role in ongoing water reform efforts. Apparently, political pressures have resulted in the abandonment of the original plan to also include the Soil Conservation Service (from Agriculture), Corps of Engineers, and an expanded Water Resources Council in the new Department.

The rationale for the new organization is clear. As the President explained, "Government institutions have failed to keep pace with this need to make important and complex natural resources policy decisions. These institutions were established one by one to meet particular needs. They lack the ability to make the comprehensive natural resources decisions that are now needed. The Department of Natural Resources will be able to deal with interactions between resource problems." While the basis for this move has long been approved by conservation organizations, there is some reluctance to go along with the present proposal.

The internal structure of the DNR will contain four major administrative units:

Oceans and atmospheric resources
Public lands, forests and water resources
Resource sciences and data
Parks, recreation, heritage and wildlife

The Sport Fishing Institute objects to this setup as it lacks a discreet administrative unit for fisheries and wildlife. The present proposal would scatter fish and wildlife functions among the administrations and possibly not improve the present situation at all. What is needed within this Department is a separate Fish and Wildlife Administration.

I first got involved in the national end of conservation affairs at the beginning of this decade, fighting the reorganization plan that took saltwater sport fisheries out of Interior and mixed them in with the old Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in Commerce. Though we were assured that the new National Marine Fisheries Service (under NOAA) would be just as attentive to sport fisheries, there were few in the sport fishing community who felt that would be the case. The Congressmen who had to approve this change really didn't have much of a feeling for it. Telegrams of opposition sent to every Senator brought some curious responses. I particularly remember Senator McGovern's (he was hot after the Presidency at the time) office calling up to find out what the reorganization plan we were asking him to vote against was about! A New Jersey Congressman wrote a detailed reply about a completely different bill relating to reorganization of the House of Representatives.

Actually, the reorganization hasn't worked out that badly. Without a doubt, this is largely due to the fight the national conservation organizations put up at the time. It took awhile for some of the old warhorses from the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries to concede that the great economic value of the sport fisheries, as well as the recreational aspect, entitles them to equal consideration. Unfortunately, game fish research at Sandy Hook Lab was downgraded (most of our solid information on bluefish comes from work done at that lab before the reorganization) and some good men (such as John Clark) were lost from government service during the turmoil following the reorganization. However, as new blood continues to flow into NMFS, the balance of commercial and recreational interests is becoming more equitable.

The idea of bringing together all fisheries in one department is a good one—particularly as it will clear up the present confused jurisdiction over anadromous fish (those that live at sea but spawn in freshwater). On the other hand, we'd be ill-advised to jump at the new proposal without ensuring that fisheries will end up in a better position when all is said and done. Once a bureaucracy is established, it's awfully difficult to make any changes!

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FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

LONG-TIME CORRESPONDENT FRED LIGHTFOOT of Greenport recently wrote us a letter to compliment a recent piece on fisheries management. Fred, as is usually the case, added a few of his own thoughts which are typically very intelligent and valuable. "It is a simple matter of common sense that good spawning conditions will not do much good if there aren't many fish left to spawn. This is something our local sport fishermen should think about when they're tempted to mohawk the dwindling supply of cow stripers." The conservation of big bass is a practice worthy of high praise in my opinion Fred, but we can't overlook the evidence that suggests that a large breeding stock does not guarantee a successful year class and a relatively small stock can produce a very large year class.

LIGHTFOOT COMMENTS ON COMMERCIAL FISHING. "The commercial fishermen are in a jam economically because the benefits of the 200 Mile Limit have encouraged too many men to get boats out to catch the increased supply, especially with the high cost of meat helping to drive up the price of fish. Some of the commercial men are very bright and farsighted, but the man who has payments due on a new boat is apt to think only of today. There are more violations of the limits on catches committed now by our own fishermen than by foreign fishermen, partly because of fear of losing boats to the banks." Fred's comments started the wheels turning and led us to check out the east end situation firsthand. I remembered seeing a few draggers working in Peconic Bay in March. I thought that this was unusual at the time because I had never observed them dragging the spring before. A check with local observers and experts revealed that, indeed, there were draggers working inside of Peconic Bay. Even those who are on the scene everyday said that this is the first time in many years that they have seen the commercial fishermen in the western part of the Bay. When asked, they offered the thought that they believed bad weather, which restricted dragging on the outside plus draggers meeting their quotas on cod turned them to the bays where big flounder were both plentiful and fetching a very handsome price. Inside dragging further complicates the bay-dragging issue which is red-hot right now and is evidence that Fred knows about what he speaks. Times are very hard and competition for the available fish is running high. We must wonder what effect all of this dragging has on the spawning of flounder, what with the bottom being torn up and millions of eggs surely covered with mud and silt. We don't know for sure that these activities are a disaster, but we hold to an argument that we put forth many years ago. Namely, we feel that in the absence of absolute knowledge, or at least clear evidence, or where pre-spawning fish are involved it would seem wise to leave the resource alone until after spawning and harvest the adult fish on the way out!

OPTIMISTIC ENDING. Fred ends his letter on the light side and expresses much the same confidence in the natural reproductive capacities of the fish that scientists have expressed repeatedly. "It looks as though, if we can maintain controls, the supply of fish will increase rapidly, and we may get a chance to catch many more species all summer and fall—not just a brief spring flurry. It's worth being patient and not too greedy."

WHERE CAN I GET SOME TROPICAL SPECIES? "In correspondence with Chet Zawacki (DEC) concerning saltwater tropical fish migrating to Long Island waters, Mr. Zawacki mentioned that you would be able to supply information on that matter." This letter was written by Anthony Talerico whose interest in tropical species results from his hobby of keeping a home aquarium. "I would like to know what local bays or coves these tropical species frequent. I'm referring to small saltwater tropicals such as butterflyfish, filefish, snappers, cornetfish, etc." Well Anthony, I can't guarantee that you'll encounter any or all of those that you mentioned. It is true many species normally restricted to latitudes well south of the New York area frequently show up in our bays, but their appearance is not predictable by species or exact location. Some scientists have suggested that hurricanes or tropical storms pushing up from the south, force the juveniles—and occasional parents—into local bays; while others who are supposedly knowledgeable about such things insist that prolonged periods of hot weather or several days of gentle easterly winds are responsible. Whatever the cause, weird species do show up from time to time. Examples include tarpon, barracuda, wahoo, along with Jack crevalle and some of the species you mentioned. The eastern portion of the Great South Bay has produced some of these specimens, as has Moriches Bay and Peconic Bay at times. I have seen several interesting tropicals pulled out of the Peconic side of the Shinnecock Canal with a seine net that was about the same size as the four by twelve foot net that you say is at your disposal. I believe that the inlets are the best places since young fish find their way to protective structures like the bars, rock piles, and reefs that are typical of most of our South Shore inlets. The fish that are in the bays have had to go in that way and out again if they migrate, or try to migrate south.

"DO YOU HAVE ANY PARTICULAR INFORMATION on what time of the summer would be the most productive for seining?" From the limited information that is available, it appears that most of the successful hauls have been made in the late summer and in asking around to those who make a living off of the Bays, they suggest that this is true. The most probable explanation for their late summer appearance would be that at this time of the year water temperatures are at their peak and may be as high as the upper Seventies in late August and early September. This guess corresponds very nicely with the best fishing for large game such as albacore, bonito and tuna, and these species, too, prefer the water to be warm.

ROBERT R. HERMAN ASKS ABOUT LUMP FISH. "In a previous issue, Fred Guardineer showed the picture of a lump fish. I would appreciate any information you could give me as to how I may catch this fish in the waters off Long Island, and what time of the year the females are ripe with roe." The lump fishes, along with the snail fishes (sometimes placed in separate families) belong to the family of fishes known as Cyclopteridae. One of the most interesting features of these fish is the sucking disc which is located on the underside of their bodies and is formed from the pelvic fins. Lump fishes have stout round bodies that give them a "lumpy" appearance, hence their name. In addition, the fish are covered with bumps and the largest ones usually run down the mid-section of the body often in double rows. The bodies of these fish are very soft and have been referred to as flabby by some. These fish prefer the cold waters of the sea; and thus, will be found close to the poles or in very deep water. There are about 150 species that have been identified to date and all of those found so far are known to be bottom dwellers. I believe that the fish you are specifically questioning is **Cyclopterus lumpus** and it is one of the largest

members of the group. It can reach a length of about two feet and weigh as much as about twenty pounds. It occurs on both sides of the Atlantic in the coldest waters. The back and sides are blue or blue-gray and portions of the fish may be definitely olive green. The ventral surface is usually yellow, but the male's belly turns red during the breeding season. Females lay about 20,000 eggs which sink to the bottom. The male guards the eggs and fans them until they hatch. It is doubtful that you could be successful in seeking out the lump fish as an angling target since they prefer the deeper and colder waters. However, it would be possible to take an occasional lump fish while deep sea fishing for other species. Thus, the preferred method would involve the use of bait fished near deep offshore wrecks. Perhaps you should try one of the Nantucket wreck trips that leave from Montauk, or better still, travel up to Massachusetts or New Hampshire and pay your way on a deep sea head boat. Catching a female with roe, I believe, would be strictly a lucky situation and can't be planned for.

DAVID STANESLOWSKI OF BROOKLYN ASKS. "I have read The Fishermen articles on rod building and found them very well written. In one issue a rotisserie motor was suggested for winding the guides. I have been to a lot of places and tried to buy one, but could not find it. I am hoping that you can give me some information on where to buy one. Keep up the good work." The basic idea intended when adapting an electric motor to the job of guide winding is to use a small motor that can be modified to run at variable speed. A rotisserie motor may be too slow and thus the gear ratios changed in order to get some kind of speed out of the thing. Old sewing machine motors are good because they usually come with a variable speed device, such as pedal which is ideal. If you want to try and get an electric motor that is suitable for the job, try asking around. Frequently, people throw things out where parts of the machine still function. Check the sidewalks near your house on trash days or a nearby junk yard. Although you will have to pay for the motor found in a junk yard, you may pay only a modest price. Let the word go out among your friends that you are on the lookout for a good small electric motor. I think you'll be surprised that a little scrounging and patience will pay off for you. If you are the impatient sort, then try a motor store. You can look in the phone book yellow pages under "Motors" and I'm sure that you will find plenty of places near to your home that will sell you the motor that is just right for your needs. Be careful though, since electric motors "ain't cheap."

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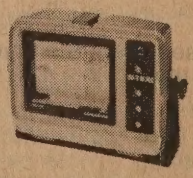

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Surf Side with Gerald Hahn

THE WEAKFISH PATH

Although Dorothy found the going rough along the yellow brick road to Oz and Kansas, if you take Long Island's south fork from the Shinnecock Canal to South Ferry, you will discover your "Oz"—some excellent surfcasting spots along the weakfish path. No tinmen or strawmen here—just a few anglers; and as for animals, instead of the courageous lion, you may run into the inscrutable tiderunner. In fact, you don't even need ruby waders. An irregular shore line moves in a northeasterly direction along Peconic Bay, forming coves and points, areas of open beaches and water, contrasted by narrow channels with small islands and inlets where currents run fast and tides deep. During the weakfish run every spring, local surfcasters and a few knowledgeable outsiders try to intercept this species at one spot or another along this path. Beginning at the western end, perhaps the most well-known place is the northeast side of Shinnecock Canal: the entrance to Peconic Bay. Just a few miles east is a lesser known spot at the end of Sebonac Road, near the Cow Neck area where two islands form a narrow channel with fast-moving water. This area is familiar to boat fishermen; the South Race is nearby. Practically a mirror image of Sebonac's channel, but without accompanying islands, is less than five miles away at Towd Point, the entrance to North Sea Harbor. By contrast, the relatively uninterrupted beaches of Sebonac Neck and Rose Grove form long coves with open water until you reach Jessup's Neck—a two-mile spit of land projecting toward Cedar Beach Point on the north fork and nearly cutting the Bay in two. This peninsula forming the Middle Grounds, is offset once again, by the concave shore line of Long Beach before the Bay compresses one last time into Shelter Island Sound, at the ferry in North Haven. Thereafter, Peconic merges with Sag Harbor and Gardiner's Bay. Altogether then, there are at least five major areas (and a host of others)—five opportunities to come in contact with migrating weakfish.

From early May to mid-June, you can see several fishing fleets plying these waters and a few of their methods are worth noting. Just as they do, it is best to fish just before and after a tidal change when weaks—especially tiderunners in the five to ten pound class—move in and out of Peconic Bay. Unfortunately, many newcomers try only one spot and if nothing happens, they retire until next time; a self-defeating venture when going for weakfish. Because weaks rarely congregate in one area during the spring run, most experienced boat fishermen try several spots and the surfcaster should do likewise. One day weaks may show up in the Race; the next day (or tide) off Jessup's. Consequently, surfcasters should try to cover several of the five spots mentioned within a single trip. Finally, some boat anglers fish for weaks exclusively with artificials, whereas others use bait and since both are apt to work, the shore-bound angler should play it safe and try both.

Bring along two rods: an eight-foot, medium action or a nine-foot, light surf-spinner with matching reel for baitcasting and a seven-foot, whippy spinning rod for casting small lures up to three-quarters of an ounce. A sand spike will secure the baited rod, freeing you to work those artificials to your heart's content. Use fifteen pound test on the baited rod, because at some spots you may need four ounces of lead to hold bottom. On the other hand, eight to ten pound test is well-suited for making relatively long casts with light lures.

It is wise to carry a variety of lures. Soft plastic, leadhead jigs are most popular; but they come in a bewildering array of shapes and colors, and selecting the "right one" can be difficult. Designed to mimic shrimp, grubs, aquatic insect larvae, worms, and

1. Shinnecock Canal, N.E. Side
2. Sebonac Neck
3. Towd Point
4. Jessup's Neck (dots indicate fishtrap areas)
5. East & West of South Ferry

baitfish, the old standbys—fluorescent pink, white, and yellow—are still holding their own, but a few "odd" colors should be included—just in case. Because weaks also feed on local baitfish—sand eels, spearing, snappers, and small bunker—a few metal lures should be considered as well. Some anglers here have had success with small swimming or diving plugs in blue-green or chrome combinations. Finally, no plugger should ever be without a few leadhead bucktails in white and yellow. A small snap swivel tied to the main line with an improved clinch knot makes quick changes easy—especially with a second rod to attend to. All the above should be worked with a slow to medium retrieve with intermittent whipping of the rod tip.

On the other rod, tie a high-low rig or a single high hook on a long leader. While boat fishermen can rig up exceptionally long snells up to four feet which stream beautifully on drifts, the surfcaster will have to shorten his snells considerably to facilitate casting and prevent fouling on the main line. I tie a three foot leader of thirty pound test to the main line via a three-way swivel and improved clinch knots. A dropper loop is formed about six inches above an end loop for the sinker. A 2/0 beak or claw, bait-saver hook on an eighteen inch snell of thirty pound test is looped through the remaining eye of the swivel and a slightly smaller snell with the same size hook connects to the dropper below. A few bank sinkers from one to four ounces will cover all situations here.

Just as a variety of artificials are warranted, several kinds of bait will improve your chances of catching weakfish. I like to use whole sand worms and four-inch-long, pennant-shaped squid strips. The worm goes on top because crabs and other scavengers will demolish it in short order, and the squid goes below. Both are hooked lightly to allow the long tails to stream in the current. Squid can also be used to "sweeten" most of the artificials mentioned. Other baits worth considering are sand eels or spearing on 2/0 long-shanked O'Shaughnessy or Carlisle hooks; shedder crabs, or grass shrimp if you can get it.

Each of the five spots have their own peculiarities and adjustment should be made accordingly. Plan on covering two or three spots in a single trip. For one, you can leave your sand spike in the car at Shinnecock because you will be fishing from a concrete wall. A number of pilings along the edge and some holes in the concrete will provide good support for your baited rod. With the other, work off the end of the wall and facing north, cast in an arc from the entrance to the Canal to around two o'clock. Beyond this point, the water is too shallow and slow moving; the bottom too rocky for productive weakfishing. At Sebonac and Towd Pt., it is best to start at the entrance to the channels and then proceed into the channel. Consequently, at Sebonac you will be fishing from left to right; at Towd Pt., from right to left. A small pier facing the channel at the latter is also worth trying. Unfortunately, Jessup's Neck cannot be fished at dawn because it is part of a wildlife refuge and parking hours are restricted to the day. It is also quite a walk to the end—so lighten your load. Therefore, it is a good second or third spot to try. If hiking to the tip of this peninsula is not for you, try the fish trap areas on your left. Several party boats—the Capt. Clark, Wilheric, and Brand X—always check out this area during the spirng run and if it's good enough for them ... Finally, you should consider fishing just east and west of the ferry in Shelter Island Sound. Park next to the ferry and walk along the beach (the roads here are private) where some small rock outcroppings and rips can be seen in the water.

When fishing for weaks, both reels should be set below the breaking point of the line because these fish have fragile mouths. A light drag enables a weak to make short runs without tearing a large hole in its mouth to throw the hook. Delicacy is the key to success with this species: a short lift of the rod to set the hook and gentle handling as you play it. A net or gaff is handy for a possible tiderunner on light line.

The north side of Shinnecock Canal can be reached by exiting off Rt. 27 at Shinnecock and heading toward the Peconic Bay side, a right turn from the service road. Sebonac is located off Rt. 27 as well. Heading east, make a left opposite Speck's Bait and Tackle (good for local weakfish information), then another left on Sebonac Road. Towd Pt. is located farther east off Rt. 27; make a left at the North Sea exit in Southampton, onto Noyac Road, and another left at Towd Point Road. To get to Jessup's Neck, continue north on Noyac Road heading toward Shelter Island and make a left in Noyac at the Morton Wildlife Refuge which marks the entrance to Jessup's. Finally, continuing on the road to Shelter Island to the end will put you in touch with the last area. Parking is no problem at these places at this time of the season.

During the spring weakfish run, be prepared to catch some other species on your worm bait: incoming humpback porgies or outgoing flounder. In fact, you can fish for all three species at once by changing the bottom hook accordingly. But if it is that pot of gold you want at the end of your "yellow brick road," check out this area and sooner or later, you will run into a tiderunner on the weakfish path.

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Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

MACKEREL FISHING

Well ... just how good will mackerel fishing be this Spring? I guess that question has many mackerel fans looking into the crystal ball. It was the very question Al Dunn, friend and long-time neighbor of my bosom buddy, Artie Leidecker, asked me one snowy afternoon last winter. Actually, the only reason Al didn't ask our mutual friend Artie was because old grumpy was spending several weeks in Florida at the time to, as he put it, "play a little golf"—which is something I'd like to see. Not having a crystal ball and having no faith in such things anyway, I put two and two together and tried to come up with four—which is not so easy to do when fishing is involved. I checked my records, quoted past mackerel performance over the past twenty years, and I could see a gradual decline from the heydays to the often "catch-as-catch-can" fishing of the mid-Seventies. But this is not as bad as it sounds. Comparing those excellent mackerel fishing days of the Fifties and Sixties to a slowdown in the Seventies is like asking the guy who has just caught fifty mackerel if he wishes he could have nailed a hundred as in the past. The smaller catch, in my opinion, is just as good as the other. (What would you do with an average per-trip catch of a hundred mackerel, anyway?) No—to answer Al's question—mackerel fishing can still be rated good. For the commercial fishermen who counts his catch by the ton, that's another story.

Whether this year's mackerel fishing will show improvement over last season is something only a damn fool would prophesy, but as I've been called a damn fool so often, I'll stick my head in the noose and say that I believe it will. Not as much as we might hope for perhaps, but I do believe this will be the year when the Spring migrating schools will hold a definite increase in numbers. This, though, will affect the commercial fishermen more than us.

This is not too hard to understand when one realizes that as far as the sport fisherman is concerned it matters not if a mackerel school contains a million, or a half-million fish. It isn't going to show up in his catch, but it will for the "farmers of the sea." The only benefit to the multitudes of us sport fishermen will be less difficulty finding and holding these larger schools in the area.

But next year—Ah! It will take just about that long for those depleted stocks of mackerel to shape up in close semblance to what it used to be. You can put the blame squarely on that detente-happy foreign fishing fleet for the devastation visited upon our once plentiful supply. I say thank God someone with brains finally saw it our way. Can you imagine those countries allowing American fishermen to do what they did to us?

I base this hope of a more plentiful supply on what I witnessed throughout the entire Summer last year. I don't know what you noticed if you live on the west end of Long Island and northern New Jersey; but out here on the east end, every bit of fishable water swarmed with young mackerel of the year. Day after day, day after day, these four and five inch fish were a common sight.

I even quit snapper fishing one day because every cast brought me one of these tiny scrappers and I couldn't see the point in taking part in injuring or killing Nature's attempt to replenish her diminished mackerel stocks. Let me ask you a question. When have you last seen young mackerel outnumber snappers? Or even when have you last caught snappers and mackerel together? This used to be a common occurrence years ago. Not for a good long time, I'm sure; and this is on what I base my hope for a renewal to the days of plenty for all, for surely several succeeding years of good spawning to match last year will put us over the top once again.

Okay, so you're going mackerel fishing this weekend—maybe you've already gone and had a successful day. Good for you. The early bird gets the worm, they say. Some years are like that: the water temperature's just right and the fish arriving earlier than expected. Usually, though, good mackerel fishing doesn't come into its own until sometime this week, offering excellent sport for only two or three weeks. After this, the fish can be expected to disappear overnight without a bit of warning. One day they're here; the next, they are few and far between. So, if you aren't planning to get out there this weekend, you had better make up your mind—fast!

Few mackerel are caught from shore in our area, although one afternoon last August I did nail several one pound fish while casting for snappers off the rock jetty on the Peconic Bay end of Shinnecock Canal—which is something I haven't done in this area in a good many years. Any wonder why I am so optimistic?

But as I say, few are caught from shore and I wouldn't expect results if this is your idea. You might be lucky, but don't count on it. What you must do is obvious. Whether you use a private, charter or party boat is up to you, of course; but of this selection it has always been my contention that you just can't beat a party boat for consistent mackerel action ... especially if this is your first attempt. As when charter boat fishing, fishing aboard a party boat assures you of professional help. And as far as mackerel fishing goes (or any bottom fishing for that matter), you just cannot beat these experienced skippers when it comes to producing fish.

Get a group of buddies together to share expenses and make arrangements with a charter skipper, or step aboard any of the party boats chasing mackerel and go out and have a ball on your own; either way will assure you of a day's sport you are not likely to forget. That's the easy way.

But what about the fellow who has a suitable deep water craft and wants to try it amidst familiar surroundings? Not too much of a problem—except on occasion when the fish decide to play hard to get. I suppose the best way to show exactly what I mean is to relate a mackerel trip Artie and I went out on last year on Friday, May 12.

We had gone through several days of off-again on-again, rain, showery conditions and blustery winds. The tenth and eleventh were fair enough, but Artie thought it best to wait until conditions offshore calmed down to assure a better chance at the fish. Of course what Artie said was common sense and proven from my own experience many times. I've always enjoyed better mackerel fishing when the sea was calm, the sun strong and a light breeze from any quarter riffling the surface. A mackerel sea, the old-timers called it.

That particular day conditions seemed right and Artie's "Echo" pushed through a fairly calm sea and into a light breeze from the south. Jones Inlet was only about thirty minutes behind us, but we found a good concentration of mackerel-fishing boats drifting in the area up ahead. As we approached, keeping a safe distance so as not to spook the fish, we paid particular attention, but hadn't noticed any mackerel coming up. I gave Artie an inquiring glance from the bow and he shook his head, heading the "Echo" to the southeast.

We drilled along until we were in about ninety feet of water, pulled up and commenced our first drift. Nothing. We flashed our diamond jigs at various depths and when they got too close to bottom, began to catch some pretty good-sized whiting—but whiting wasn't what we wanted.

I guess we fooled around there about two hours with nary a mackerel hit. Several other boats joined us eventually hoping, I suppose, that we had hit into some fish, or soon would do so.

It was then when Artie's experience came into play. "Matt, dollars to doughnuts I know where those fish are." He wagged his head dolefully from side to side

"Old age sure must be creeping up. Those fish are inshore, less than twenty minutes from the inlet. We passed right over them, I'm sure."

So back we went—and not a soul fishing the area. Within five minutes into the first drift, we hit them. One nice fish after another. We only fished an hour or so; but in that time, we had half-filled a good-sized container. We left them in a feeding frenzy. Enough was enough. Tomorrow was another day.

Now, that is how we caught our mackerel that day. I suppose if we had anchored up and got some mossbunker chum going when we were offshore in that deeper water, we might have had some sort of action. But we weren't carrying chum that day, which between you, me and the lamppost, is not too good an idea. But it didn't really matter that much to us at the time. If we had failed to hit into fish, we would have returned the next day with chum and probably have done okay. Time and fishing opportunities for Artie and me are easy enough to come by, so we can afford to cut corners.

But not so the fellow who must take advantage of every means to get in some mackerel fishing at the height of the season. This fellow should carry insurance in the form of a block or two of frozen bunker chum. If the fish aren't found by drifting, or if only a light pick is the best you can manage, mix that chum with sea water into the consistency of thin soup, anchor up and ladle several scoops (about a pint) overboard into the tide. Wait several minutes and get some more over.

Flash those diamond jigs (two to four ounce) at various levels until the action starts. Once that first fish is caught, you are home free—but only if you continue to occasionally ladle a scoop of bunker overboard to keep the fish on the prowl for more. Don't overdo, and more important, don't allow too much time to elapse between scoops. Doing so will create a barren area without enticing chum to hold the fish and they will seek greener pastures.

Correct mackerel chumming is often tricky; so make up your mind to watch your p's and q's. I find that those private boat fishermen who have difficulty with mackerel chumming are those who have done their initial mackerel fishing aboard party boats and noticed how easy it seems to be to get the fish flying. They don't consider that all those diamond jigs and mackerel trees act much like a chum line and serve to get the fish nto a feeding frenzy. The private boat fisherman must take time to learn proper chumming techniques when he is on his own or with a couple of buddies. But once he learns the fine points of the game, he can always surprise his buddies with his expertise.

The best mackerel tackle is a medium-weight boat rod and a matching reel filled with either ten pound or twenty pound mono. If you plan on using only a diamond jig, then by all means use the lighter test; but when using a mackerel tree, go to the heavier stuff because quite often when the fish are taking hold in good style, three or four at a time are common enough.

You will find, too, that the fish are usually feeding about thirty feet below the surface—but this can change at any moment; so you've got to keep on your toes to make certain your jig is at the right depth. Miss this all-important depth by as little as five feet and it is quite possible to cut your catch by seventy-five percent.

It isn't difficult to catch mackerel, and if I were you, I wouldn't waste too much time getting out there. Now, or within a few days, is the time. So get cracking.

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SPRINGTIME AT BLOCK ISLAND

by Ron Onorato

One of the much heralded events to take place at Montauk, and it takes second place only to the arrival of the striped bass—is the arrival of the schools of pollack and codfish along the reefs and ledges of Block Island. Indeed, this fishing creates almost as much excitement as does the striper fishing itself.

For the past several springs, huge schools of sand eels have moved in the area south of Block Island around the end of May, and with them came the cod and pollack. The fishery showed signs of revitalization back in late April of 1976 when, for a few days, huge schools of cod and pollack appeared on Shark's Ledge and feasted heavily. Any boats that were lucky enough to be there at the time had a bail job; but by the time the word got around, the sand eels packed their bags, and with them went the cod and pollack. The fish moved in and out at varying degrees of abundance throughout May, but it was basically a hit-and-miss deal thereafter. Then in late April of 1977, the sand eels showed up again at the same place; but this time they didn't leave the area so quickly, and remained pretty much through the month of May. Fantastic was the only word to describe the enormous catches of cod and pollack that were made at this area. Everyone was waiting when the spring of 1978 rolled around to see what the fish would do. And typical of any type of fishing, the pollack failed to appear in any great numbers, although the codfishing was fairly good. Conspicuous by their absence were the schools of sand eels which had been so plentiful the spring before. Whereas in 1977 when the bulk of the catch was made by using large diamond jigs and tube lures, the catch made this spring past was primarily on clam baits, another indication that the bait fish were lacking in the area. If the fish are following an off again/on again pattern, then this spring should see a resumption of the fantastic springtime fishing that we had back in 1977.

Block Island is really a unique area when one starts looking around at the various codfish grounds. At the height of the codfish population around the end of the Sixties and the beginning of the Seventies, it was not uncommon to make substantial catches of codfish right near the beach of the Island in water that was at times no deeper than twenty-five feet. If you grabbed the right piece of bottom, you would pull small pollack as well as snowshoe flounder. While this inshore fishery is pretty much a thing of the past, the deep water grounds south of the Island remain a healthy and viable area for both the cod and pollack. While much of the Long Island area is pretty much a tough spot for cod lately, Block Island has done well primarily because it catches some of the overlapping schools of cod from the more northerly waters. It seems that even during the poor years, Block Island had at least a few days of fairly good codfishing. A problem arises when the schools start to thin out from too much fishing pressure, and there are no more replacement schools around.

One of the more enjoyable aspects of fishing here, is that you can use either the conventional clam baits, or when the sand eels are around, the diamond jig with a couple of surge tubes tied ahead of it on a long leader. It was merely looking for the fish with the depth recorder and then lowering away with either bait or jigs. In the early part of the run, the catch primarily consisted of cod with a lesser quantity of pollack. In the later stages of the run, the catch swung over the other way with pollack predominating, while the co took second place. Those that staye with the clam bait took more co than pollack—while those that use the jigs, caught more pollack tha cod. These fish were big too! Th pollack averaged about twent pounds with numerous thirty pounc ers, while the cod averaged abou fifteen pounds with a few thirt pounders thrown in. The larger fis were taken on the jigs; the smalle fish went for the clam bait.

This cod fell for a jig and tube combo fished near bottom.

Fishing Block Island is really n that difficult to learn, and after few trips, you can pretty much g the handle on things. You will b fishing basically under two types conditions: the first is when the fis are spread out over a wide area an are feeding heavily on bait, and th second time is when the bait is little sparse, and the fish a structure feeding on certain botto formations. The first one is easy fish. The fish are all over and it simply a matter of watching th other boats to see if they are in fish; or looking around with th bottom recorder until some sort life is marked on the paper. It when the fish are not quite plentiful and are concentrated in small schools close to the bottor that some difficulties are found.

If the wind is reasonably ligh drifting is the preferred method fishing. You get to cover a wide ar

and you can probe many different pieces of bottom without going through the trouble of anchoring in the one hundred foot plus water depth. However, springtime weather is tricky to say the least, and more often than not, the wind and tidal conditions are such that a reasonably slow drift can be made. Then it is time to sit on the hook and hope that things work out. The cod are moving around from piece to piece, and although you may have marked some life when you first got to the spot, by the time the boat is laying on the hook, the fish might have jumped off and you're going to have to go through the burdensome task of re-anchoring. Sometimes you'll pull a couple of fish off a lump and then the rest of the fish will spook and head for another place. This might not seem so bad because all you have to do is look for another piece of bottom with some life. Problems arise again when there are plenty of boats in the area, and all of them are sitting on the best pieces of ground. And then, of course, there are the times when you anchor the boat exactly where you wanted to and the fish come up in a steady stream for the rest of the tide. Fortunately, the grounds south of the Island are reasonably large and there are numerous pieces both inshore and offshore that can be worked, and given enough time, sooner or later will produce.

Tackle requirements are really not that extensive. If you plan on bait fishing, then the standard codfish outfit with thirty pound line will be more than ample for anything you might run across. If you are going to do a lot of jigging, you might find that it pays to go to somewhat lighter mono for a couple of reasons. Although the heavier line will give you more security, especially if you have a couple of big fish on, lighter twenty or twenty-five pound mono will definitely give you a much

School cod predominate when bait fishing with clams off Block Island.

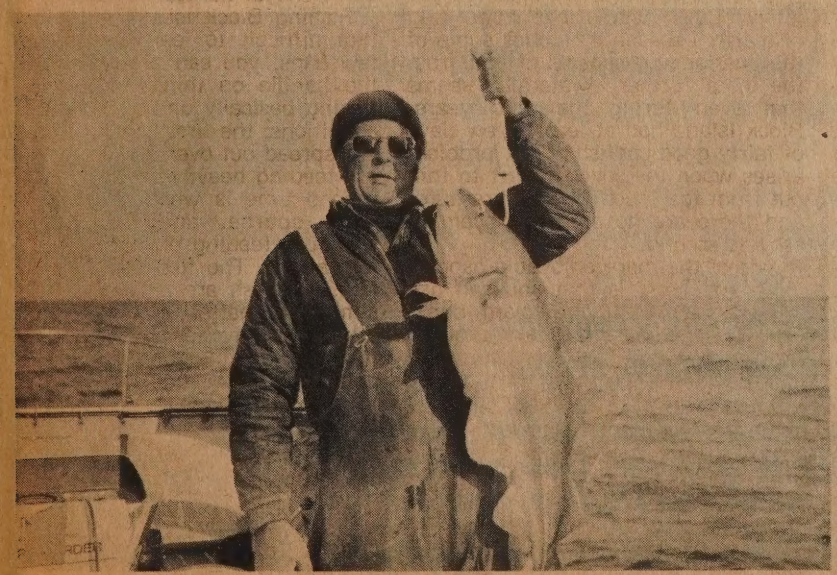
better feel of the jig and bottom. When the tide is running briskly or you have a fresh breeze blowing, you might find that the lighter line with its decreased water resistance, will be a lot more efficient than heavier mono.

When the fish are not actively feeding on sand eels, the plain old skimmer clam is about the most effective bait that you can use for the cod, and when the pollack are feeding close to the bottom, it will also bag its share of the fish. The standard two-hook rig that is employed with codfishing elsewhere, can also be used effectively out at Block Island. The first hook is attached to the line about fifteen to eighteen inches above the sinker, while the second hook is attached anywhere from three to four feet above the lower hook. From this, we can see that the second high hook is anywhere from four to five feet above the sinker, and this is an important consideration since many of the codfish on the hard pieces and lumps are free-swimming several feet off the bottom and the high hook will grab them. Leader length on the hooks should be kept on the short side with about fifteen inches being the longest or else it will start to wrap itself around the main leader and will render itself useless. Since the majority of the fish will be on the small side, it pays to stay with hooks no larger than 5/0 Claw type hooks. Also, don't overload these hooks with giant pieces of skimmer clam. You will find that when the fish are feeding, a large skimmer cut in half or a small whole one is about all the bait you will need. The fish take a bait very vigorously, and they have a better chance of swallowing a smaller bait than they do a larger one.

At one time, there were fairly large numbers of really big snowshoe flounder that fed on the same grounds as the codfish. Of late, however, these fish have just about disappeared from the grounds. All you would have to do is attach a #6 flounder hook right into the sinker and give it a slow lift every so often. When the fish were heavy enough, many charter boats would make the long run just to get a shot at some of the big flounder.

While the clam bait gets the lion's share of the action from the fishermen, under certain conditions, the skimmer clam is almost totally useless, and the diamond jig with a couple of surge tube teasers will far outfish the bait. The new sand eel jig by Tri-Fin has also proven its worth on the deep water grounds when the fish gorge themselves on the schools of sand eels that often show up in these waters at varying times of the winter and spring. What attracts the sand eels is still a mystery, but as go the sand eels, so go the cod and pollack.

(Continued on next page.)



George Oliver with a 30 pound cod taken on a jig.

You can fashion a multiple lure rig with surge tubes and diamond jigs, in pretty much the same manner you would a multiple hook mackerel rig. You start out with a three foot length of eighty pound mono and attach a big barrel swivel to one end of the leader. About twelve inches ahead of this barrel swivel, attach a three or four inch red or purple surge tube by means of several overhand knots. About fifteen inches past this one, add a second tube by the same means. Finish off the whole thing by attaching a medium size barrel swivel to the other open end of the mono leader. The whole thing when properly finished looks like a big mackerel tree, except that there are fewer hooks. To snap at the opposite end of the leader goes a six, eight or ten ounce diamond jig, the weight of which will be determined by the drift and tidal conditions. This rig is fished in pretty much the same manner a mackerel tree is fished, except that the retrieve you use should be much slower. Although the cod and pollack are active feeders, they are nowhere near as fast as mackerel or bluefish, and they will not go zooming after a lure that is being cranked in at high speed. The whole contraption is lowered all the way to the bottom, and the moment it hits, a slow but steady retrieve is employed until the rig is about twenty feet from the surface. Once you find the zone at which the fish are feeding—and this will usually be within twenty to thirty feet of the bottom, you simply concentrate your efforts at that level. If the fish are not taking the slow retrieve, then you will have to try speeding it up.

If multiple tube lures do not appeal to you, then you can fish a straight jig and have almost as much success. Although the plain chrome-plated jig with its bare free-swinging hook will work, you are best advised to replace the free-swinging hook with a long green, red, or purple tube. The addition of this tube gives the lure a lot more action and makes it fairly close in size to the sand eels that are in the area, which by average measure are anywhere from six to ten inches in length and as thick as a pencil. What will work even better than the straight jig and tube combination is the new Sand Eel jig. Last year was not a big sand eel year at Block Island, but the eight ounce green Sand Eel jig did reasonably well on what fish there were that took jigs. Like the multiple tube rig, the diamond and sand eel jig are at their best when they are fished slowly. What also worked reasonably well (and these have nothing to do with sand eels) were the chrome-plated Norwegian cod jigs. Apparently these lures are meant to simulate some sort of fish bait like a herring, whiting, or bergall, rather than the sand eel. Similar to this is the Bridgeport Vi-Ke jigs, which also produced some fish. These jigs worked well on those pieces of bottom that were loaded with perch (bergall). A good way to get an idea as to what the fish are feeding on is to try a couple of different things, including clam baits and catch a couple of fish: the hooked fish will usually disgorge their stomach contents at the surface of the water, or on the deck of the boat. Once you see what they have been eating, you can be guided accordingly in the manner of your fishing. At times, small mackerel can be found throughout the area, and these provide prime bait when cut into strip baits. Whole fillet of bergalls will also work well when the fish are spitting up small perch.

As this is being written, we are coming off one of the worst fall and winter's codfishing that both Montauk and Block Island has seen in many a year, and this does not bode well for the spring. The only consolation seems to be that there were huge schools of giant sand eels at both the Submarine Buoy and the Southwest Ledge buoy as late as the end of December; so it is possible that an overlapping school of codfish will settle into the area when things warm up a little around the end of March. Even though things are quiet right now, I'll bet that the cod and pollack show up again this spring at the Block.

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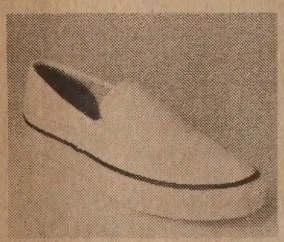

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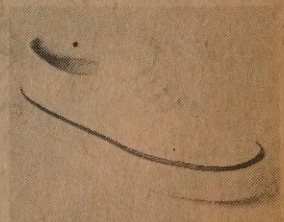
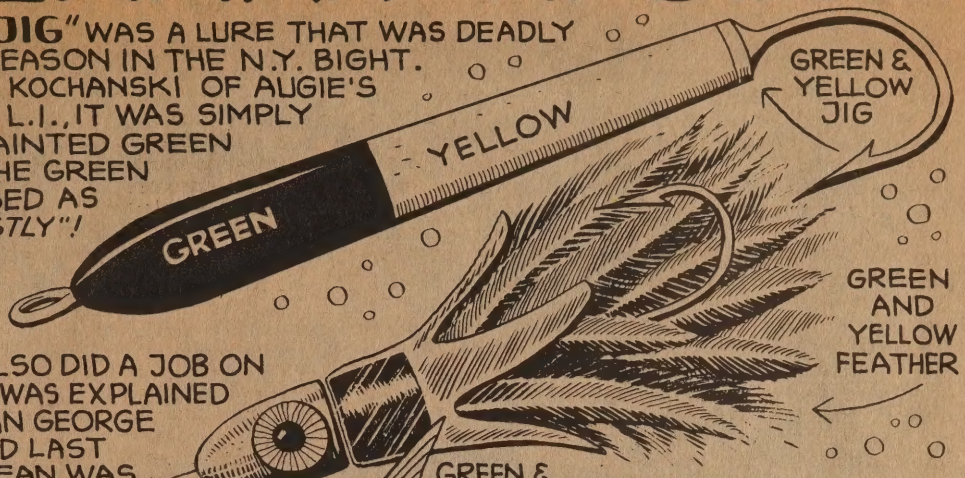


FISHERMAN TIPS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

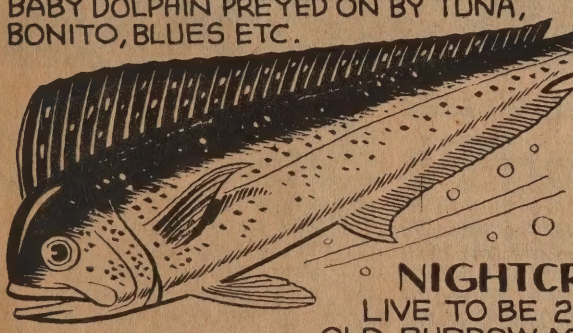
"THE POLISH JIG" WAS A LURE THAT WAS DEADLY ON TUNA LAST SEASON IN THE N.Y. BIGHT. PUT OUT BY HAL KOCHANSKI OF AUGIE'S BAIT & TACKLE, L.I., IT WAS SIMPLY A CEDAR JIG PAINTED GREEN AND YELLOW. THE GREEN IS BEST DESCRIBED AS *"PUKE"* OR *"GHASTLY"*!



GREEN AND YELLOW FEATHERS ALSO DID A JOB ON TOP FISH WHICH WAS EXPLAINED BY L.I. TACKLEMAN GEORGE COMBS WHO SAID LAST SUMMER THE OCEAN WAS FULL OF GREEN AND YELLOW BABY DOLPHIN PREYED ON BY TUNA, BONITO, BLUES ETC.

GREEN AND YELLOW FEATHER

GREEN & YELLOW BABY DOLPHIN



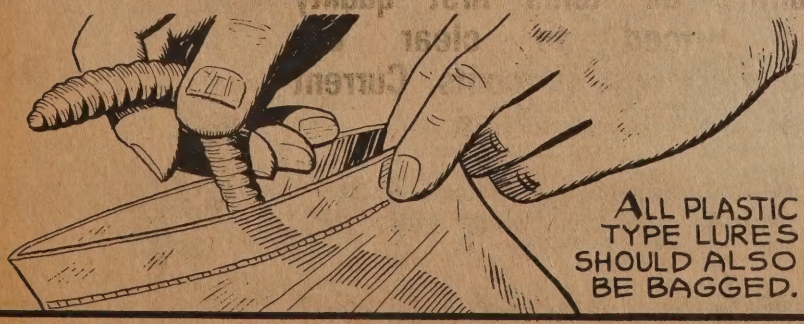
WHEN FISHING A FRESH-WATER FLOATING LURE AND BASS REPEATEDLY STRIKE AT IT WITHOUT GETTING HOOKED-ADD A SPLIT SHOT TO THE TAILHOOK TO KEEP IT FURTHER BELOW THE SURFACE. THIS MAKES IT EASIER FOR FISH TO SUCK IN THE LURE.

NIGHTCRAWLERS LIVE TO BE 20-25 YEARS OLD, BURROW AS DEEP AS 15 FT., ARE 85% MOISTURE AND 15% MUSCLE, HAVE A BRAIN, CROP AND GIZZARD, ARE BOTH MALE AND FEMALE, BUT IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO.

ENLARGED VIEW OF HEAD OF A NIGHT-CRAWLER

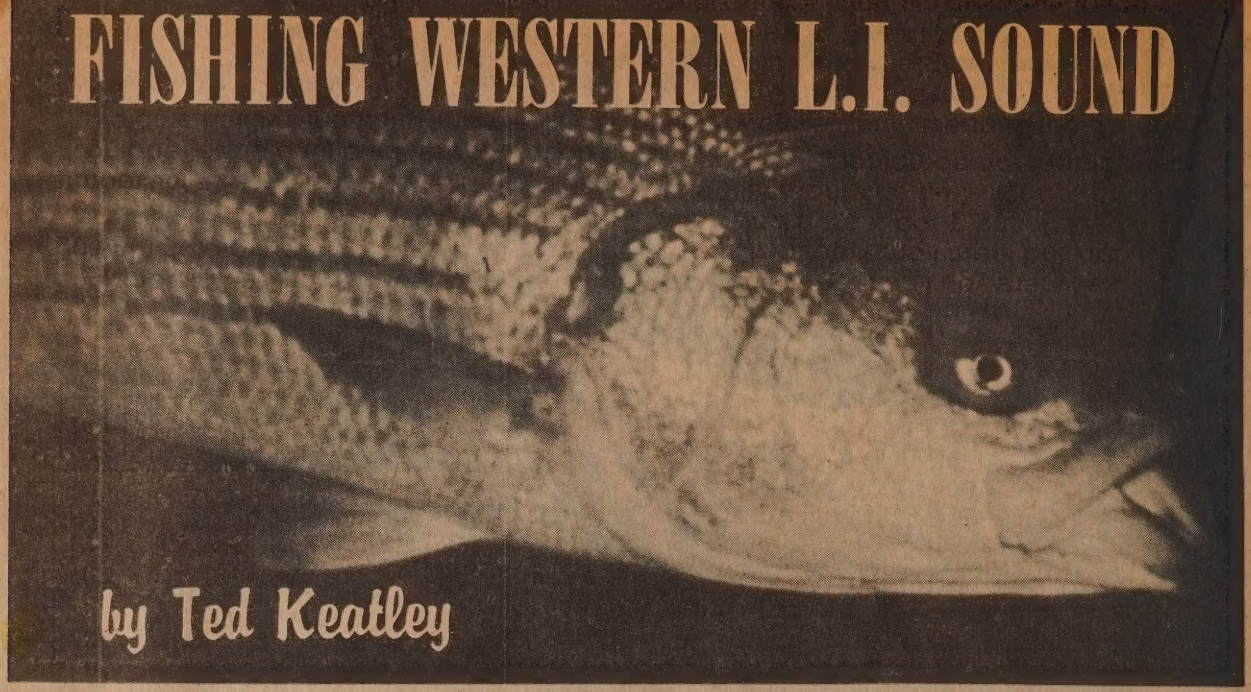
BEST WAY TO FREEZE YOUR FLOUNDER, TROUT AND WEAKFISH FILLETS FOR FUTURE MEALS IS TO FILL A MILK CARTON WITH THE FILLETS AND FILL CARTON WITH WATER, FREEZE THE FISH IN A SOLID BLOCK OF ICE.

KEEP PLASTIC WORMS FRESH AND EFFECTIVE BY STORING THEM IN SEAL-TIGHT PLASTIC SANDWICH BAGS. THIS LOCKS IN THE SCENT OF FLAVORED WORMS, ELIMINATES CONTACTING OTHER ODORS, AND PROTECTS REST OF TACKLE IN CASE THEY MELT ON A HOT DAY.



ALL PLASTIC TYPE LURES SHOULD ALSO BE BAGGED.

FISHING WESTERN L.I. SOUND



by Ted Keatley

April showers bring May flowers—and flounder fishing. However, May ushers in the real fishing season in western Long Island Sound. By the end of the month, most of the species found in the area will have made at least a token appearance.

As I write this, I am looking forward to some fish that will enable me to experiment with my new fish finder. Even the most sensitive unit cannot pick up flounder sliding along the bottom. I guess that my first opportunity will be with the arrival of the mackerel. This should be a real challenge since the Atlantic mackerel does not have a swim bladder to bounce back the sound waves.

In a recent column, I rambled on at some length about the effectiveness of a white line recorder in locating bluefish down deep, as they were most of last summer at Buoy 15 off Lloyd's Neck. This year, I am ready! I have installed a Lowrance 1510A Grayline unit to track them down.

After my experiences last summer, there is no question in my mind that a white line recorder is the secret of consistent success with blues in deep water. I also am interested in what the unit will do in positioning the boat over feeding blackfish on the deeper reefs. In blackfishing, little more than length of a big man's arm can be the difference between go and no-go.

Let's take a look at May prospects.

Flounder: The early part of the month should produce excellent fishing, with the action tapering off as the end of May approaches.

Mackerel: I covered mackerel fishing at some length in my April column. The receipt of this magazine by readers should just about coincide with the peak of the spring mackerel run.

Blackfish: In the past, I pretty much restricted my blackfishing to fall since, by the time that they arrived in the spring, there usually was the more alluring prospect of taking a striped bass or two. Now that I have a boat with a V-8 engine instead of my old, low-powered Dyer Glamour Girl, night worm trolling is out. So, I may devote more time to blackfishing.

I sometimes wonder if I made a mistake in selling the Dyer. My main reason was that if I wanted to fish places on the Long Island side such as Lloyd's and Eaton's, I had to leave the dock at Stamford early in the morning and pack food for a long trip. Wide open with the wind behind me, my top speed wasn't much over ten miles an hour.

However, of all the fishing that I have done, night worm trolling for striped bass was the most relaxing. After a day at the office when I was ready to climb through the telephone and punch the guy at the other end on the nose, a few hours of trolling in the evening made the world seem livable again.

Well, back to blackfishing.

Blacks provided some fantastic fishing from the late Sixties through 1976. However, the last two seasons were disappointments. In two years, I had exactly one day of top-notch blackfishing. Burt Carpenter and I took over forty monster blacks one morning late last October on a deep-water reef off the Stamford Cow Buoy. Unfortunately, when I returned the next day, four-foot seas made fishing impossible. On my next trip a week later, about the only thing out there on that reef was me.

Any rocky area from Westport to City Island is a blackfishing possibility, although the best are those where the reefs extend a considerable distance offshore.

Blacks remain semi-dormant in deep rocky holes during the winter and begin moving toward shore as the water begins to warm in late April. By mid-May, they are right along the shore line and often feed in areas that are out of water at low tide.

Old-timers say that blacks "have a soft mouth" in early spring. Thus, clams and fiddlers are the preferred bait at the beginning of the season. Up Rhode Island way, fishermen often use worms—although in this area, I never have figured a way to get a worm past a bergall far enough for a black to grab it.

After the middle of May, green crabs are the bait to use if you want big fish—and bergalls have a tough time gnawing half a green crab off the hook.

Unlike late fall blackfishing when deep water reefs are most productive, spring fishing usually is done at depths from three to twenty feet. Many prefer to fish in less than ten feet of water.

A common trick is to cast your bait onto a rock where there is a sheer dropoff to deeper water. Then, with a flick of the wrist, you can place your bait in the deep hole alongside.

A double anchor to keep the boat steady and prevent it from swinging with the wind and tide is always a good idea when fishing shallow water. It is a virtual necessity if you want to cast to a particular rock.

Blackfish move with the tide and in most shallow areas, the rising tide and the beginning of the fall usually

produce most of the action.

Many of the experts have a series of moves that they make, gradually inshore on the rising tide and back out to deeper areas on the drop.

Striped Bass: We have not had a major year class since 1970 and the population is at about its lowest level in forty years. Thus, I am not anticipating a particularly rewarding season.

We did have a fairly good run of migrating fish in western Long Island Sound late last fall, although the bulk of the action was on the Long Island side. The bass were gorging themselves on the sand eels concentrated at the major points of land: Eaton's, Lloyd's, Matinecock, and Prospect. The latter provided exceptional fishing for several weeks. However, if you weren't out there at daylight, the pickings were slim as a rule. Most of those caught were school fish on their way to the Hudson River wintering areas.

One of the keys to striper action in a particular area is the availability of bait fish. Indications are that last year's torrents of sand eels will flow back and the commercial interests expect the Atlantic Coast bunker population to be at a fairly good level. Of course, if the bunkers ignore Long Island Sound and migrate on to Rhode Island and Maine as they did last year, that is another story. The best thing that could happen would be a superior year class of menhaden which works its way into our area. Not only would this pull in stripers, blues and weaks, but it also would keep them on top. The fantastic plugging action of the late Sixties was due to the tremendous number of juvenile bunkers.

Early reports for the area this season weren't overly encouraging. There was spasmodic action with bass which had wintered over in the warm water outfall of the Northport Lilco plant on the Long Island side. However, well into April, Jack Rumpf at City Island had no reports of fish from Turtle Bay in Pelham Bay Park or Little Neck Bay on the opposite side of the Sound. In good years, these areas often began providing some action by early March. These undoubtedly were fish which had dropped off from the fall migration into the Hudson River and remained in the Sound.

The potential for catching striped bass will continue to improve through May. Big fish from the coastal run will follow the bunkers into the Sound from the east and the Hudson River population will begin moving around through the Harlem and East Rivers.

Bait—both chunks and worms—should prove more effective than artificials at this time of year. However, where the bottom is clean enough to permit it, slowly retrieved bucktail jigs bounced along the bottom will produce. Swimming plugs like the Goo-Goo Eyes #50 and the four-and-a-half and five-and-a-half inch Rebels also can be effective. Surface lures such as floaters and poppers are unlikely to provide much action until later in the season when there is more bait on top.

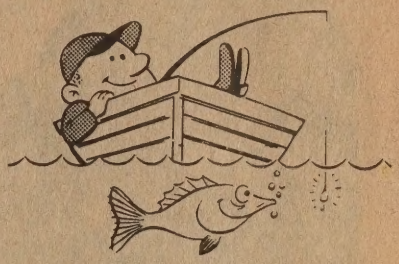
Years ago, I would anticipate the first run of big fish around Memorial Day and I do not see any reason why this year will be different. Unfortunately, I am afraid that the numbers will be much reduced.

One thought worth consideration is investigating deep water when the bunkers first arrive and are out in the middle of the Sound. During 1976 and 1977, some big striped bass were taken fishing both live bunkers and chunks near the bottom. Most of this action was reported at Buoy 32A off Stamford, the E and F Buoys outside of Captain's Island and the K Buoy between Mamaroneck and Hempstead Harbor.

In recent years, the striper population has built up gradually through May and June to a peak around the middle of July. Then the bottom would fall out except for a few flurries and the possibility of a late fall run of fish returning to the Hudson River.

Weakfish: We have had reasonably good weakfishing for some years, although the best action has been on the Long Island side. One thing which disturbs me is that most of the fish are big. We are concentrating on one or two year classes with no replacement in sight. Are we returning to the conditions of a twenty-year period beginning around 1950 when catching weakfish was a rarity?

Weakfish seldom appear in any numbers before Memorial Day. I will review the prospects and techniques in detail when I write my early June column.



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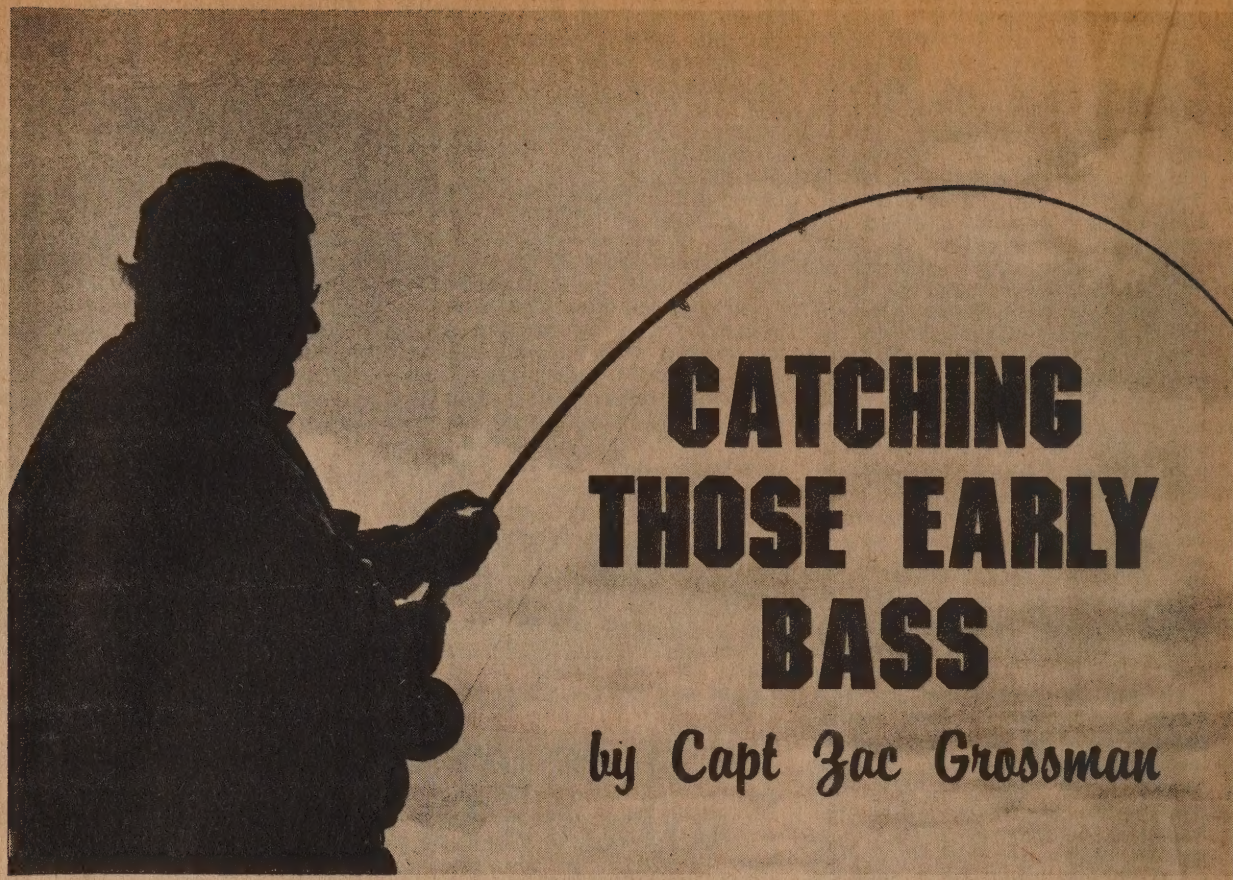

CATCHING THOSE EARLY BASS

by Capt Zac Grossman

By now you must be itching for that first striper of the year. With each passing day, there is more food in the water and the likelihood of school bass showing up increases. The water temperatures are rising and the marshes are teeming with life: killies, grass shrimp, crabs, clams, worms and others. Do the striped bass know this? You can bet your bucktail they do! All the marshy areas, Turtle Cove, Peterson's Cove, and all the others are ready to serve up their buffet and we are ready to do our part as the last link in the food chain and catch some of those stripers.

Fortunately, at this time of the year he is not the finicky feeder he's cracked up to be. This doesn't mean you can be sloppy in your technique; it only means that just about any properly presented bait should meet with success. The following is a discussion of some of the methods that I use at this time of the year, varying from active pursuit with casting tackle to trolling. I prefer to do my casting on the outgoing tide and trolling on the incoming.

Game fish that patrol the marshes will head for the grass line as the tide begins to ebb, sensing that the tasty morsels swimming in and out of the marsh grass will soon have no water to swim in. They will soon have to venture out into the water at the dropoff and this is where they will become dinner. The water here is shallow and, therefore, warmer than the deeper areas. The combination of warmer water and moving food means that the bass you find here will be in an agitated state ready to strike at anything that moves. It helps to have a shallow draft boat here—but shallow draft in itself does not guarantee success: stealth is the key factor. Just like the flats down south, these shallow areas require a cautious approach to avoid sending every game fish fleeing for the safety of the depths. Try to get in close enough so that your longest cast will just reach the grass line.

Whenever possible, I fish a shore line that is parallel to the wind or current direction—whichever is the stronger at the time. I move in very slowly and cut my engines far enough out so my momentum will carry me to just within casting range of the shore. The tide o wind then takes over and moves the boat along th shore line maintaining the desired distance out. O course, it isn't possible to always have things this wa so you must then keep jockeying the boat aroun Choosing the right kind of tackle for this kind of fishin will pay off handsomely in fish and pleasure.

It is necessary to develop your casting accuracy fo this game. If you can place your lure at the edge of th dropoff, you'll find many a bass waiting there to pounc on it. The lures, of necessity, are small because the have to imitate the minnows, grass shrimp, sand ee and other delicacies to be found here. To handle thes lightweight lures, I prefer a one-handed spinning ro matched to a high speed reel loaded with six or eigh pound test. A slightly heavier outfit (ten pound test) wi make playing the fish easier, but will hinder you casting distance with small lures and besides that, th lighter outfit provides more sport.

I prefer a rod that has a straight, even taper an should handle lure weights from one-quarter t one-and-a-quarter ounces—the latter requiring a bit of lob cast. Avoid quick taper rods as the soft tip wi absorb shock and fail to transmit power down the lin when you are trying to work a lure or set the hook on fish. It's very expensive, but if you can afford it, get graphite. The difference in feel cannot be described words. My own rig consists of a Fenwick GFS70 and Cardinal 4, loaded with six pound test. This rod ca place a lure with deadly accuracy at very long distance and transmits the slightest flick of the wrist down th line (very important with bucktails, poppers and lure without built-in action like MirroLure minnows). It als sets the hook deeper and faster because it absorbs ver little of the energy imparted to it by the angler.

If I am using a bucktail, I try to land it on the so bank a couple of inches from the edge. Here I let it s (among the first blades of grass in a foot or less water) for a few moments. Near the edge, the sing hook usually won't snag when the lure is set in motion. give it a sharp jerk, causing it to jump off the ledge an

plummet into the deeper water—usually two to six feet at this point. When doing this, be sure to point the rod at the lure and extend your arm out straight, then flick your wrist to get the bucktail to jump off. As the lure is sinking, move your arm back toward your body and raise the rod tip a few degrees. This technique will keep slack out of the line, allowing you to maintain contact with the sinking lure should a fish hit it on the way down. Many a fish is missed because the lure has been picked up and spit out by a fish without the angler feeling a thing. It only takes a fraction of a second, so if you feel a sudden weightlessness (experience will teach you the difference between the feel of a pickup and hitting bottom) strike fast and hard.

If the lure makes it to the bottom, I let it sit for a second or two and then twitch it and rest it and twitch it and rest it, etc., imitating a shrimp. The many shrimp-like lures on the market are perfect for this. If trying to imitate a small bait fish, I prefer to retrieve the bucktail at a slow but steady pace without any hitches or jerks.

Of the lures that don't go to the bottom, I favor Rebels and Tins. The four-and-a-half inch Rebel works great, but its treble hooks mean that you have to avoid getting it into the grass. Tin squids and other metal lures sporting a single hook and a slow, seductive wiggle work great here. Metals other than tin are denser and require a wider design to ride high over the blades of grass just under the surface. Kastmasters and freshwater Daredevles and Woblrites fitted with tinned hooks are good. Again, these should be cast to the grass line and then retrieve slowly over the dropoff.

In the shallow waters of the marsh edge, it is important to soften the impact of the lure entering the water to avoid scaring off any game fish. This can be accomplished by slowing down the lure speed as it reaches the target. Just add a little more zip to the cast than necessary; then as the lure approaches the target "feather" the line coming off the spool with your forefinger if using spinning tackle or apply extra thumb pressure if using casting tackle. If done properly, the lure which would overshoot its destination if allowed to go on unchecked, will come to a short stop a few inches over the water and gently fall in.

Saltwater fly tackle affords the ultimate in accuracy and stealth, making it a natural for this area. It will require a close approach, though, to make up for a somewhat limited casting range. The accuracy comes from the fact that a cast can be cancelled at the last instant if off course by merely starting another back-cast before the fly touches down. When it is finally right on target, a properly cast fly will come to a stop over the water and fall softly in. Flies can be tied to be practically weedless and fished right along the grassy edge. Since a fly sinks very slowly, it appears to just hang there, suspended in the water. This makes it look very much like a real minnow that is feeding. By stripping in fly line with short jerks, it causes the fly to dart about. Between each dart it comes to a complete stop, just hanging there looking like a minnow on the feed (a fish doesn't sink when it stops moving forward).

Once I've worked an area over for a few drifts, I move in closer to shore so that I can cast lures parallel to the dropoff and work them back to the boat in the deeper water (six to ten feet deep). Here I use sinking Rebels, Alou Eels and the like. When I am sure that the area will yield no more fish, I make one last drift with everyone aboard using poppers, ranging from small ones up to those far too big to simulate anything in the area. The results are often astounding.

The techniques outlined so far have produced for me in Turtle Cove, along the shore of Rodman's Neck, High Island, along the sod banks of Hart Island's east end; the entire western shore of Little Neck Bay, the back area of the Bay, and parts of its eastern shore.

When trolling at this time of year, worms are a necessity—the bigger the better. It's unfortunate that bait dealers can't always supply "bass worms"—those snakes that are long as an eel and as thick as your thumb. When the tides are right, the diggers find these monsters, but a week later the average size is much smaller. What can you do? I'll tell you. First make a worm contact; a tackle shop that will put aside those largest of worms (usually for a higher price) for regular customers. Don't expect him to do this when the worms are average or below—he has to give something to the other guys also. Next, we have to find a way to keep these worms alive for long periods of time. It's a crime to throw away unused ten inch worms at the end of the day only to find that next weekend the only ones available are three inches long. I save empty milk containers which have been thoroughly washed and dried. Seal up the spout with tape or staples; lay it on its side and make three cuts with a razor blade creating a lid almost the full size of the container. On a dropping tide, I take a bunch of these worm containers and head for the sod banks in Pelham Bay. I fill the containers with the sand that is found just below the marsh grass, but above the beginning of the muddy bottom that is exposed as the tide continues to recede. This sand is just moist—not soaking wet. After purchasing the worms, I transfer them into this sand. You can tell they love it because they immediately toughen up and make themselves at home. A worm that has been in this sand is tight and tough and can be easily cast a long distance without breaking off; it can be trolled for long periods of time and still retain its wiggle and color. At the end of the day, the container goes back into the refrigerator for next week. A handful of sea water dribbled into the sand before going home will keep you worms happy. While fishing, the waterproof containers can be kept on ice in the cooler. I have had worms last six weeks this way, if not overcrowded (a dozen to a container).

When trolling, I stick to water six to fifteen feet deep using either the Cape Cod spinner and worm rig or the Turkey Bone and worm rig. The lure is attached to a thirty pound test leader, twenty-four inches long and

(**Continued on next page.**)

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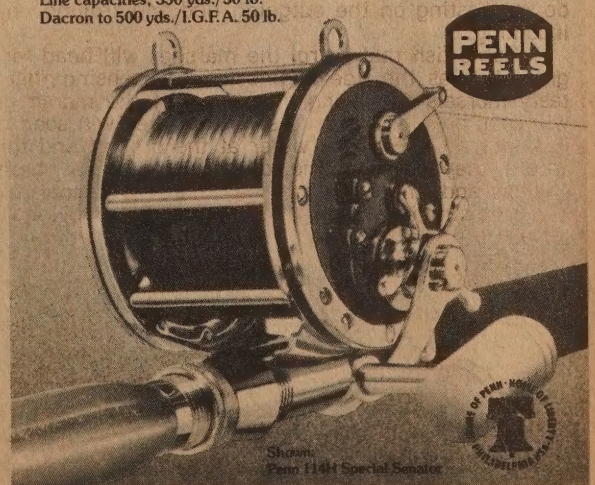

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having a perfection loop on the other end. This loop is placed in the snap swivel at the end of the fishing line. Behind the spinner or turkey bone is a 3/0 Eagle Claw baitholder hook on a stiff three-inch leader. A single large sandworm is threaded about one inch onto the hook and allowed to trail naturally. On the leader, near the perfection loop, I place the appropriate rubber-cored sinker. With this rig it is necessary to let out line behind the boat as it is moving a little faster than trolling speed to prevent it from sinking rapidly to the bottom and hanging up. You can either hold the rod or place it in a rod holder because the fish will hook themselves. I troll a pattern of "S" curves because this makes the lure rise and fall as it is dragged through the water. If you feel little taps, reel in a few feet to raise the lure off the bottom a little. If you get short hits and come up with half the worm missing, it means that it was chased down by some bottom dweller. Stripers will not chop off the worm; they attack a moving target from the front after racing past it and turning around to swallow it head-first—any strugglings only serve to force the prey even deeper into the bass' throat. You'll notice that almost every bass taken on this rig will be hooked in the corner of the mouth and the worm will usually be hanging outside of his mouth because of this feeding habit. Bass strike a moving lure with a vengeance, so if you're holding the rod in your hand—be prepared. Once the fish is played out and brought to the boat you can decide whether a gaff is needed. If not, just run your hand down the fishing line until you feel the swivel pass through your fingers; this means that the thirty pound test leader is in your hand and you can just swing the fish aboard.

The Rebel-Worm rig consists of a seven inch floating Rebel with all the trebles removed. A single O'Shaughnessy hook on a swivel replaces the tail hook and a large sandworm is affixed to this hook. This rig works very well in shallow water and places the boat cannot approach on a trolling pattern. You can position the boat near a bunch of boulders and cast this worm rig into them and slowly retrieve it, or you can start a pattern from this position by casting it out, putting the boat in gear and trolling the lure through the rocks and out along the shore line.

I usually start trolling at Rodman's Neck and then move onto the Throgg's Neck Bridge. I approach the bridge at the Bronx end near the toll booths. I angle the boat under the bridge starting at the third opening from the shore and then zigzag in and out of the concrete pilings so that the spinner-worm combo will pass by the base of each. This requires a little more trolling weight than other spots because the line cannot be let out too far behind the boat. I continue on for about a hundred yards, then double back and go the other way. When I complete two passes without a fish, I reel in and zip over to the other side of this span of the bridge. There is a jetty over there which I approach at a ninety degree angle to its base. I let out the lines about two hundred feet from the jetty. Just as I get about fifty feet from the base of the jetty, I make a sharp left turn parallelling the jetty about ten feet out from the rocks. This causes the lures to sink and then swim along the base of the rock pile. If I get to a spot about one hundred fifty feet past the end of the jetty without getting a fish, I make a sharp right turn and begin to parallel the shore all the way around the bend and up to the first piling of the main span of the Throggs Neck Bridge and then back again.

Next I shoot across to the west bank of Little Neck Bay and troll along the dropoff and then back and forth outside of the underwater point that juts out where the grassy bank ends and the Cross Island Parkway comes into view. From here, I head for Hewlitt Point and troll the shore line on both sides of the private breakwaters found there. Again, the approach is made at ninety degrees to the breakwater: this would mean running parallel to the shore until within fifty feet of the western breakwater and executing a sharp left turn. Then parallel the jetty until the lure has cleared the tip and throw the gears into neutral. There is a hole at the end

A fifteen pound striped bass taken on a Rebel.

of this jetty and it is really difficult to pull this maneuver without getting a fish. Coast along for about fifty feet, then engage the clutch again and turn toward the eastern breakwater which you can then parallel. About twenty-five feet past the end of the jetty is the time to make another sharp turn and head out ninety degrees to the rock pile. This will accomplish two things: the lure will sink into the hole at the base of the jetty and will help you avoid running into a rather large boulder that would surely ruin your day.

When I leave here I head over to Hart Island. There is a rock wall on the side facing High Island and I like to troll back and forth along this wall where the water is deep enough to allow getting in really close. The pattern runs from the old ferry slip right up to the Blauzes. I troll along with the rods in holders at right angles to the boat and close enough so that the inside lure travels about six feet out from the vertical wall.

I have listed just a mere handful of spots to fish for early stripers. Similar marshy areas and jetties exist everywhere in Long Island Sound and you only have to experiment to find out the combination that will produce there. It has been a long winter; name me a winter that doesn't seem long to a bass fisherman, and I for one am ready to tie into a linesider. How about you??

MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
CODFISH

Charter boat **Ebb Tide** called to report good catches of cod to the tune of 25-80 fish per trip. John is sailing three to four days a week and is working Southwest Ledge with clam. Captain Faro on the "Clean Sweep" had 60 flounder at buoy 7, south of Gardiner's Island using mussels.

Bruce Keefer on his boat "Feeling Free" had 30 nice cod fishing Block Island's Southwest Ledge, along with three pollack, all on clam.

Captain Ron Grandinetti of the charter boat **Julie III** had a party of three led by Tony Pipciota. They had 36 flounder from 1½ to 3 lbs. in Gardiner's Island's Cherry Harbor. It was terrific fishing and they had to move around a lot until they got on top of fish. Heavy chumming and red-dyed clam did the trick.

Charter boat **Devil Fish** called to tell us that on Saturday he had 28 cod and two large pollack, all on diamond jigs at Block Island's Hooter Buoy and Southwest Ledge. Sunday, it was mackerel at Southwest Ledge along with 46 cod that ran up to 16 lbs. Warren says this looks like a new body of fish and there are also lots of throwbacks. Most of this was on diamond jigs also.

Charter boat **King Wayne** called to report that he fished Tom Elkins of the Reelers Fishing Club Saturday and worked the Block Island waters for a good catch of cod on clam. Some fish took diamond jigs also. On Sunday, the Nassau High Hooks of Freeport fished south of Block Island and also SW Ledge and came up with a good mixed bag of cod, blacks, macs and snowshoes.

The Viking Fleet reports that the **Viking Starship** fished Coxes Ledge Saturday and Sunday, enjoying good catches of cod up to 52 lbs. Fish averaged 8-15 lbs. A lot of fish in the thirties and forties were taken also. Catches were from medium to good, all on bait. When we called for the report on Monday morning, Capt. Paul Forsberg and the Starship were out on the first Nantucket wreck trip of the year which was completely sold out, as was the second scheduled Nantucket wreck trip for May 20.

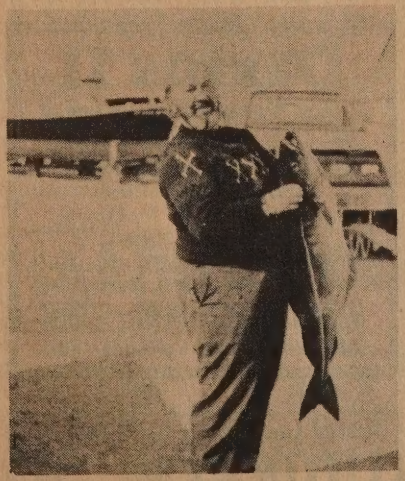
Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** called to tell us that the "Bar Bar Jack" had 60 cod and pollack this weekend. The 20 pollack had some individuals weighing up to 55 lbs. The cod weighed up to 30 lbs per. All were nice sized fish. Best area for cod is on the south side of Block Island.

Charter boat **Montauk** called to report good catches of cod and pollack on Saturday. The 18 pollack ran from 20 to 31 lbs. The 26 cod were up to 10 lbs. This was for Guy Decatrael of New Jersey and party. On Sunday, Jim Fachtman of Southampton and party had 50 cod, a few good sized blackfish and a 5 lb. snowshoe.

Gone Fishing Marina reports that on Sunday Ed Jarvis and Ed Burke of Patchogue boated 30 big cod up to 40 lbs. at Shark's Ledge in 135' of water. On Ed's boat, The Jean¶J. Sunday saw Richard Burkland of Roslyn take 8 flounder up to 3½ lbs. at Shagwong Point on the ebb, fishing from one of the rental boats. "Tony Joe" also came back Sunday with a good catch of flounders and blacks taken at Shagwong.

Viking Skipper II reported fishing remains good to excellent. Wednesday's fishing was a bonanza with Fred Ach of Bayside leading the way with 11 fish. Mixture of giant cod n the 45-50 lb. class, pollack in the 20 lb. class and hake in the 30-40 lb. class. Fred's big fish was a 53 lb. cod which took the pool. Fred's efforts for that day produced well over 200 lbs. of fish. Rock cod are plentiful at Southwest Ledge. On Friday Bud says he thinks his low hook on the boat that day caught 8 or 9 fish. Fish ranged from 4-10 lbs. Bags were bulging and the people were smiling.

Bob Salerno called us to report that he fished with Bruce Kiefer on the **Feeling Free** on Sunday. The catch amounted to 51 cod in the 4 to 5 lb. class. These were taken at Southwest Ledge on clam bait.



John Columbus holds a 40 lb. pollack taken by Fritz Jaehne south of Block Island. Photo courtesy of Gone Fishing Marina.

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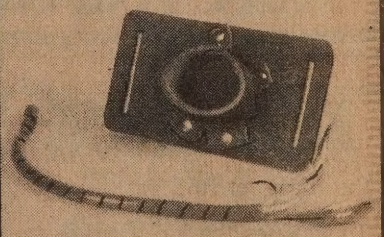

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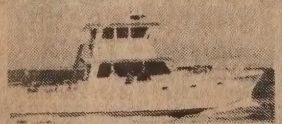

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FLOUNDER

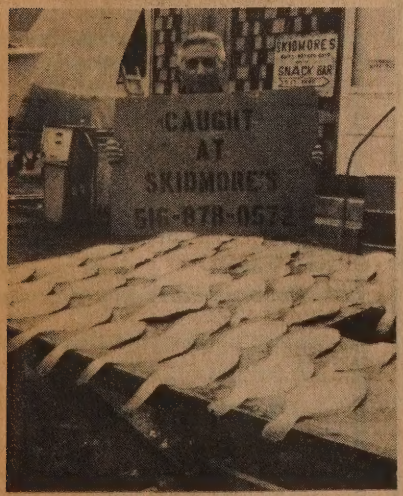
SHINNECOCK

The Captain Clark Fleet reports good flounder activity over the weekend with some fares decking 18-20 fish per man. Reports of weaks in Peconic Bay are improving daily and good catches have been reported at Jessup's to Cow Neck on squid strips and artificials also. The Capt. Clark boat will be weakfishing by May 10.

MORICHES BAY

Silly Lily Fishing Station reports very good flounder fishing, with the afternoon tides being productive Saturday and Sunday. On Sunday, Joe Obermeyer and sons Joey and Mike of Brooklyn boated 88 flounder. John Froelich of Commack had 40 flounder, caught north of buoy 42 and another good spot was Havens Point. Chumming and blood or sand worms on the hook are the ticket. All fish are in the filleting size.

East Moriches Bait and Tackle reports very good flounder fishing in the Bay particularly at Seatuck cove, buoys 29 and 27 on bloods and mussels. Rich and Charlie Petron, Joe and Lou Stripoli and John Drogan rounded up 131 flounder Saturday at buoy 42 in just 2½ hours. This was on blood and sand worms and clam belly chum. Heavy



This great catch of 53 flatties was made by Hank Schlonger at Buoy 44 in Moriches Bay. The fish were taken on the first of the ebb with worms and mussel chum.

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mackerel action at the 110' mark du south of the Inlet. Weaks in the hol at buoy 42 on sand worms.

Jim of **Skidmore's Fishing Statio** claimed that flounder fishing ha been "super". Saturday's fishin was down due to the wind but anglers still managed to scrape ou 35 nice flounder. Catches by mos boats ran in the high teens or lov twenties. On Sunday the Cazzol party caught over 50 keeper flounde fishing at Buoy 43. The family use bloodworm bait and mussel chum fo their catch. Good fishing is only 1 minutes from the dock. A fe weakfish have been taken on bait i the Hole between Buoys 42 and 43.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
WEAKFISH

MASTIC BEACH

Gary at **Stiritz' Fishing Statio** says the only good flounder spo right now is buoy 17 on bloods an mussels, rental boats averaging 40 50 per trip. Fish 1¾ lbs. Lots of se robins in the area which are fore runners of weakfish on this part o the South Shore. Lots of tin blueclaws all over, which will be bi enough for harvesting this cra season. Plenty of mackerel in 70-80 of water.

SAYVILLE

Vinnie at **Young's Fishing Statio** was very happy about the weakfis

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ches when we called. He says it rted Sunday at the Ocean Beach l Cherry Grove areas, fish in the 0 lb range on sandworms, jelly rms, salty dogs, though no mendous catches yet. People are king away. A few blackfish off rrett Beach at Porgy Bar, which is ween Barrett Beach and Davis rk on flounder rigs. That was nday. A few macks in the bay off uepoint. Flounder are slowing wn, though some catches were l made from Patchogue to Blue- nt. Pete Felice and dad had 3 big aks from 8-10 lbs. at Ocean Beach nday morning at high water on nds and jelly worms. Billy Ulrich aled 10 tiderunners from 6-10 lbs. nday at Ocean Beach in the ddle of the afternoon. Clay Hard- an had 5 big weaks at Cherry ove on sands and jellies.

EAST ISLIP

Buoy II Sport Shop reports that ally Wolpert, Jr. weighed in a 4 . fluke taken at Ocean Beach nday morning while weakfishing. ally, Sr. weighed up 2 fine eakfish taken by casters over the eekend. James Jackson had a 9 lb. oz. weak on squid at Heckscher hile Skipper Perry had a 10 ounder from the banks of the State hannel.

BAY SHORE

Smokey's Bait and Tackle reports ounder remain good from Point O' oods to west of the Moses Bridge ith worms best plus heavy on the ussel chum. Weaks were obliging n the weekend. Steve and Carol rooks and Mike McMannnis had eakfish to 11 lb. 8 oz. and four ere taken in five drifts. Most are eing caught on double-hook jelly orms, both grape and strawberry. hey also had 35 flounder from ¾ 1½ lbs. in front of the Light- ouse. Carl weighed in a 13¼ lb. eakfish which hungered for a rawberry jelly worm on Sunday off cean Beach. Carl weighed in a tal of 35 weakfish on Sunday, most f which were caught between buoys 3 and 13A at Ocean Beach. Macks emain good south of Fire Island nlet in 80' of water. Sunday's atches were super. Looks like a reat weakfish season is about to pen up and the Bay is loaded with unker.

The open boat **Casey Lee** reported xcellent flounder fishing all week vith the exception of Sunday when ishing was only fair. Ben Scardine f East Rockaway fished 3 days luring the week and totaled 116 eeper flounder. Friday's high hook ad 50 flounder and the Captain's vife, Casey, even managed 31 lounder on her own. Fishing has een best in West Channel, at the ighthouse and at Fair Harbor. aptain Walter Specht asked us to remind readers that he will begin sailing for weakfish May 11th 4:00 p.m. daily.

CAPTREE

Captain Neil Delanoy of the charter boat **Lady Ann** reported excellent flounder fishing all week with the exception of Friday. Friday's fishing was only fair. On Saturday and Sunday the total catch came to over 800 flounder. Best fishing was found at Fair Harbor and Kismet at the change of tide. Neil reported that worms and clams continue to take the fish and also added that the whale is still frolicking around the Lighthouse area.

Captain Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** reported "super" mackerel fishing 5 miles south of the Inlet on Sunday. Fares were loaded down with sacks of fish early. Speedy will begin sailing for weakfish Wednesday, May 9th. For the time being weakfish trips will be limited to 4:30 p.m. daily.

The Captain Litwin reports very good flounder catches both Saturday and Sunday; catches averaging 25-30 keepers per man, fish from 1 to 1½ lbs. and fat. This was mostly at the Sore Thumb on worms and clam, both tides.

Captain Gordon Roman of the **New Captree Queen II** called to say that due to weather and many last minute details, there was a delay in the finish work on the new boat and he apologizes to his regular customers that may have made plans for this past weekend. He expects the boat to start sailing this coming weekend (May 12) and it will be doing 7AM flounder and 3:30 p.m. weakfishing as soon as the boat arrives. The weakfish will be strictly limited and they will be fishing one side of the boat only.

Charter Boat **Capt. Eddie B II** reports flounder fishing good Saturday and Sunday at the change of tide off South Beach, with a few fish also caught at the Sore Thumb. Worms were best, then clam. The boat bailed 400 flounder on Saturday morning alone.

Captain Joseph II started the afternoon weakfish season with three weakfish on Saturday's afternoon trip. Sunday was better with six weaks, all on jellies and sands.

The Jib Fleet reports that Captain Marty on the **Jib VI** had good flounder all week and weekend with Sunday being excellent. Best was in West Channel and Clam Pond to the Lighthouse along the South Beach. Vladas Morkunas of Woodhaven got two quadruple headers in a row. The boat is sailing daily also for weaks at 3:30 pm. Sunday night a 12 lb. 8 oz. weak won the pool for Tom Slattery of North Bay Shore. Larry Moreno was high hook with 3 weaks weighing 7, 8 and 10 lbs. Ten-year-old Scott Avolin, North Babylon hooked and landed a 12¼ lb. weak. This was all on grape and strawberry jelly worms.

Noel at the **Captree Bait Station** tells of good flounder catches off the Captree pier and the Fire Island piers, fish averaging ¾ lbs. each on blood or sand worms and clam. Weakfish under the drawbridge in the state channel on sand and jellies for casters from the beach. These fish are up to 12½ lbs. and are hitting best at the top and bottom of the tide. Some blackfish at the

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Moses Bridge and Jones Beach piers n sandworms or clam.

Captain Wayne Westerlind of the **peedy VII** told us that he found xcellent flounder fishing on Satur- lay along South Beach. The fish are oncentrating in the Inlet area and ome big scores can be made now. Due to the demand, Wayne fished nackerel on the Sunday day trip and oaded up early. Sunday's afternoon lounder trip was very good with all he fish being taken on worms and lams.

Capt. Dan Juetner of the **Captain loseph II** reports that weakfishing has been improving on the afternoon rips. "The harder the people work he better they do." Flounder fish- ng has been good with fares averaging 8 to 15 fish per man.

The **Captain Eddie B** reported that George Bly along with a troop of Boy Scouts had a good mess of flounder on worms and clams over the weekend. The Captain fished Clam Pond and the Sore Thumb and found the best action on the last of the Ebb.

Captain George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** was enthuised about his Sunday p.m. weakfish trip. The catch was the best so far this season and numbered in the low 30s. Fish were taken at Ocean Beach on sandworms and jelly worms and ran from 5 to 13 lbs. The Captain is sailing 3:30 daily and 2:30 weekends for the tiderunners. George also reported good flounder fishing along South Beach on the last of the outgoing tide. There are still some nice size fish around and worms and clams are the best baits.

Duke Spina and Vinny Palde display their fine catch of 28 flounder taken at Oak Beach on worm and clam bait. Photo courtesy of The Store.

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OAK BEACH

The Store reports that weakfish busted loose on Wedneday. Ralph Vigiano of New Jersey had a 6 lb. 1 oz. and a 10 lb. weak fishing under the drawbridge with a white jelly worm. Sunday, Pete Mabanta fished a strawberry jelly worm and hung a 13 lb. 12 oz. tiderunner at the beginning of the ebb. Mackerel are abundant 1 mi. south of the whistler. Flounder have slowed but 5 a man are still possible on both sides of the store. Blacks at the rock jetty on sand worms and clam on the south side of the store.

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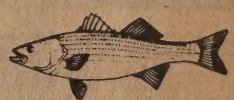

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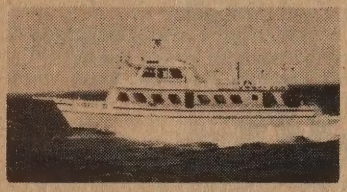

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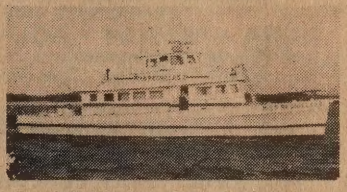

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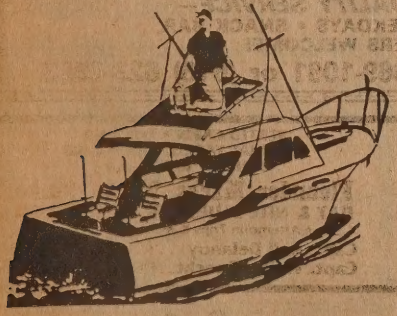

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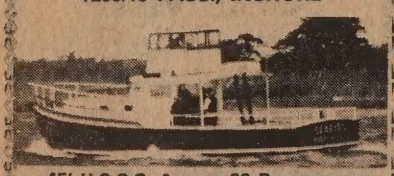

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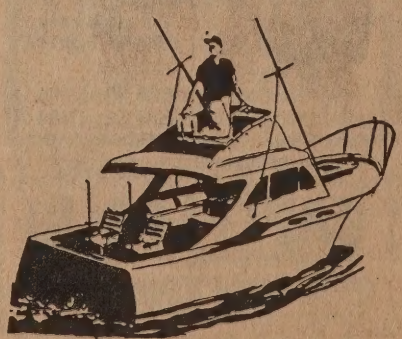


BABYLON

Charlie's Fishing Station started off saying they expect a super blueclaw crab year this year based on the number of baby blueclaws in the Bay. Flounder are being caught by their rental boats at Bergen Point and off the pool, 30 to 40 per skiff on bloods and chum, any moving water.

Augie's Bait and Tackle reports that Gaby Ciuffio of the BTC and Tom Landrahs caught 9 weaks from 6 to 8 lbs. and dropped 2 fishing sands and jellies in purple and red Sunday afternoon off Ocean Beach. Frank Polnoy of W. Babylon had weaks of 10½ and 8 lbs. on jelly worms. Carl the Gillnetter got two 6 lb. bluefish in the Bay in his net. Macks were very good Sunday, 80-85' of water south and southwest of the inlet. Lots of smaller flounder now. Good catches being made at the pocket of the Sore Thumb, average 30-40 per boat no problem.

Mario at **High Hook Fishing Station** reported Sunday's catches good, all skiffs returning with fish. Ken and Annette got 11 flounder at Good Sam on worms and clam. Ben Chames got 3 weakfish in the 5-6 lb. range fishing west channel on salty dog tipped with squid on the flood. Flounder catches averaging 15-35 keepers per skiff. Tuesday at the old lighthouse, a mess of flounder and 2 blackfish were taken by one customer.

Richard Zeidler of Patchogue caught 5 weaks Sunday up to 10 lbs. 2 oz. The biggie was 34" long. Rich is a member of the South Shore Marlin and Tuna Club. The catch was made off Ocean Beach while casting a rubber worm. This was all on Bob Gustafson's boat "Intruder."

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★BEST BET★
FLOUNDER

LINDENHURST

Captain John of the **Sea Horse** tells us flounder fishing was good all week long, catches of 10-20 fish a man. Fish average 1¼ lbs., working the Bay Shore flats and Dickerson's channel. Fish hit on both moving tides on both clam and worm equally. Several weakfish were seen caught in Dickerson's channel in the 5-8 lb. range.

COPIAGUE

bait and Tackle Unlimited reports good flounder fishing in sthe state

channel, bass creek, east of the Meadowbrook bridge and Four Corners with red-dyed clam catching best. Good weakfish catches off Ocean Beach, buoy 12 and Point O'Woods on strawberry jelly worms, pink salty dogs and white bucktails. Larry weighed in 7 weaks over 10 lbs. on Sunday. Blacks at the Meadowbrook Bridge on sandworms on the slack. Heavy mackerel fishing in 60-80' of water south of the inlet.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle says weaks are a big item now at Unqua Pt. and east-west channel. Fish averaging 2-3 lbs. In the State Channel from Gilgo to the Babylon cut 2-9 lbers. are the size range. Purple and red 9'' jelly worms are working well, double hooks working better yet. The last of the flood has been most productive. George weighed in 4 fluke Sunday taken at Fl Inlet on sand eels on a ebbing tide. Blacks at Wantagh and meadowbrook bridges on green crab, fish from 2-6 lbs. Good flounder still being caught at West and Squaw Islands. Smaller flatties still being caught at Massapequa Cove and Unqua Pt. Macks still hot in 80-90' of water due south of the Inlet. George sees a very good August for crabs coming up with loads of little guys in the water now.

SEAFORD

Ted of **Uncle Hermie's Fishing Station** reported that Jose Nieves, Bob King, and Ed Kassay had a super catch of 98 flounder on Saturday up to 1¾ lbs. The trio did not disclose the location of their catch. Jim Symington and son Billy had 50 flounder up to 1¾ lbs. at the Third Wantagh Bridge on Sunday. Worms and mussels produce both catches. Ted said that boats averaged 10 to 30 flatties per boat on Sunday.

Captain Eddies Fishing Station tells of great flounder fishing sunday from 20-100 keepers per boat on worm and mussel at Massapequa Cove. Two 11 lb. weakfish were caught by one boat at Amityville Cut on sand worms. These fish range from ½ to 1½ lbs.

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle tells us that Steve and Ann Weiss of Massapequa Park (member of Merrick Rod and Gun Club) had 30 flounder up to 1 lb. 1 oz. plus 3 tommycod at Massapequa Cove this weekend on worms and heavy chumming. Lon says this was an average catch, some doing better, some worse. Best areas were Massapequa Cove, Four Corners, West & Squaw Islands and state channel at Gilgo. Weaks at Short Beach (6) casting bucktails (Hopkins, hammertails), weaks going to 10½ lbs. Paul Fleischmann and Bob Esposito of Massapequa got 4 weaks to 8 lbs. at Ocean Beach on red jellies. A few blackfish at the bridges on green crab or clam. Lon said it's develop-into a hot season.

Pop's Fishing Station reports fishing has been extra good, averaging about 20 flounder per boat with by-catches of bergalls and eels. Bill Duryea of Bellemore, Warren Duyea Sr. and Jr. of Lindenhurst had 40 flounder up to 2¼lbs. Sunday, Dee Wilson of Crest Fishing Club, Maspeth, along with Pat and Bill from Cypress Hills had 105 flounder up to 2¾ lbs. These catches were on worm, clam and mussel in the area of Four Corners.

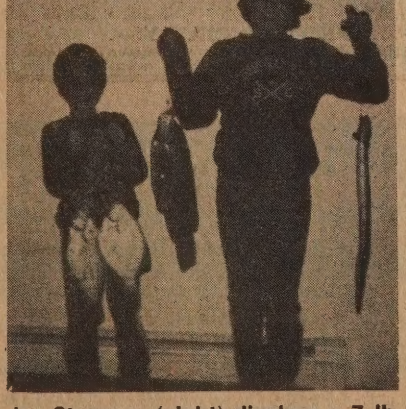
MERRICK

Nick's Fishing Station reports good flounder fishing Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday. Wednesday and Sunday were best at the S turn at the end of Ned's Creek also halfway between Merrick Pt and the golf course, best on worms. There are more smaller fish in the bay now says Jimmy and still a lot of rock crabs. Loads of macks in 90' of water.

IT should be noted that last week we printed a total of 5,000 lbs. of cod for a catch by the Nite Owl. This was our error and the figure should have been 1000 lbs.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station reports terrific mackerel catches SE of Jones Inlet in 80' of water by Dr. Stan Bernstein on Sunday. Joe McKeefree did a similar job. Flounder spotty but being caught in deper holes and channels on bloodworms and mussel chum. A few weaks being caught off the west bar on the ebb Saturday bucktails with banana splits. A couple of fluke caught at Jones Inlet on sand eels and squid.



Joe Stazzone (right) displays a 7 lb. black and a large eel, while brother Mike shows off a pair of big flounder. Subscriber Club Photo.

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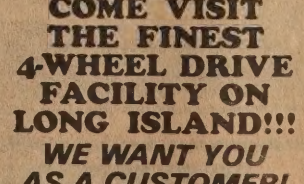
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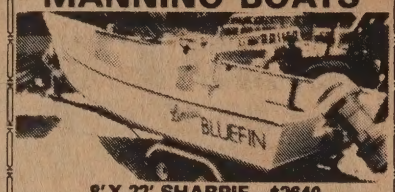

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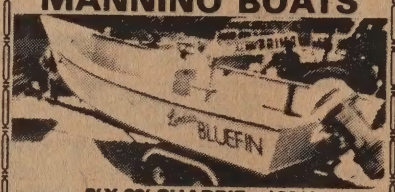

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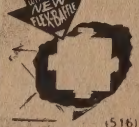

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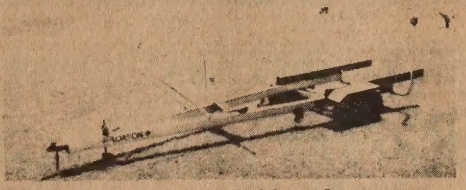

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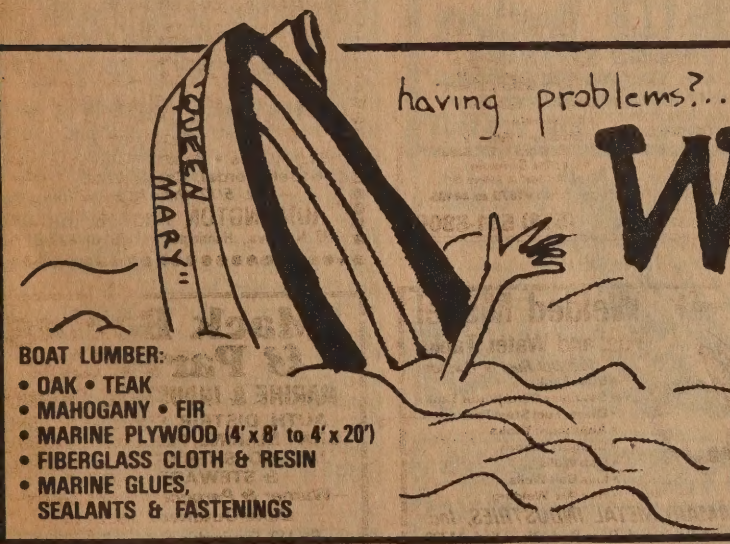

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FREEPORT

Ronnie at **Sea Isle Sports** reports picky flounder fishing in Middle Bay this past weekend but the big number has been mackerel at around 85' of water.

Richie at **Charvin Fishing Station** tells us Sunday saw plenty of macks caught from 80-100' of water south, southeast and southwest of Jones Inlet. Schools are scattered. Some did very well, some just picked. Flounder fishing was fair to good if you knew the spots and chummed heavily. A few weakfish brought in by Howie Sternberg on his boat Judy II, fishing along with two pals. Richie weighed in several he took at Ocean Beach on sands and jellies. A 4 lb. fluke was caught in Swift Creek on spearing at the bottom of the ebb on Sunday by Dennis and John Callahan of Rosedale. They also had some large flounder at Garrett's Lead. 500 lbs. of macks came over the rail of Freeport Tuna Club member Allen Radi on his boat Yago Yago.

The **Starstream II** reports all week long his passengers enjoyed super duper excellent mackerel fishing "right in our own backyard," 10-13 miles south of Jones Inlet. Passengers were happy and smiling with their bulging burlap bags full of fish. Richie says come down soon before the fish leave.

The Capt. Lou II says flounder were picky during the week but Friday was fantastic and the weekend good also. Mike fished the main channels. Fish are bigger now and on the move. On Saturday, customers had big fish also in the 2-3 lb. range and a blackfish double-header.

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one big blowfish caught Sunday . hey had a fluke during the week. lounder should be gathering up, nd catches should be getting eavier. Fish have been going to 2¾ os. Mike's new boat, The Capt. Lou ll will be making its maiden voyage n Saturday, May 12. Mike invites verybody down for the party prior o the 7AM sailing.

The Capt. Hall tells of continuous ood mackerel catches anywhere rom ½ to 1 hr. riding time off the each, varying with the amount of oat traffic on any particular day. Dick says no matter where we stop, ve find fish up to 2 lbs. Catches run rom 30 to 100 big Bostons per nan...all you want.

The **Aloma II** has been banging way at the Bostons Saturday and Sunday, but by the time you read his, will have switched back to lounder daily. During the week, he was getting 8-12 flounder per man, up to 2½ lbs. Paul says he's seen a ew fluke caught in the area.

Captain Charlie Adams of the **Blue Fin** reports excellent catches of macks, sea bass and blacks for his Sunday charter. He found macks 7 mi. south of the inlet while the sea bass and blacks were on an offshore wreck. Pool went to a 3½ lb. black caught by Steve Kierney of the Double T Fishing Club. Runnerup was Steven Kierney with a 3¼ lb black. Sea bass ran to 2½ lb. on clam.

Capt Sy Karlin of the **Blue Fin II** found macks 7-15 miles offshore south of the Inlet on Sunday in less than one foot seas.

Charter Boat **Captain Darby** had over 200 macks on Tuesday, all big Bostons for his people.

Freeport Boatmen's Association reports on Saturday, the Snapshot 5 loaded up on macks at the NC buoy. The Atlantic fishing for flounder with high hook 20 fish working Reynolds Channel near Garretts Lead on moving water. The Flying Dutchman loaded up on macks in 75-80' of water and the rest of the fleet did the same. Sunday saw the North Star do a job on macks south of Cholera, while the Atlantic fished pole 19 in Reynolds Channel for over 100 keepers for the Hicksville Fire Dept. The Acme II with Captain Wonderful Walter at the helm split the day between macks and flounder for his happy party. Captain Jim on the **Nite Owl II** loaded his people up on macks at the BA Saturday and flounder on Sunday off Massapequa. The Lady J II was chartered Saturday and Sunday for a light tackle porbeagle shark record seeker, armed with 12 lb. test.

The newest tackle shop to hit Freeport, **Mark's Bait and Tackle** reports Jack Darragh and Dennis Cadman of Mr. Marine fishing sandworms in the state channel east of Zach's Bay came up with 2 weakfish weighing 7 lbs. 8 oz. and 8 lbs. Mark weighed these fish in. Fishing on the Judy II, Harry, Frank

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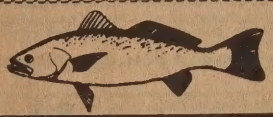

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and Marv fished Ocean Beach wit Mr. Twisters tipped with san worms and bagged weakfish 6½ lb and 9½ lbs. Mark says that th corner of Atlantic Ave. and Gu Lombardo Ave. and he ask you t stop in and say hello.

The **Miss Freeport II** had mackerel bonanza over the weeken and did well with flounder durin the week. On May 13 the Mis Freeport will sail open for flounder The Miss Freeport II sails ope everyday. See ad for details.

Charter boat **The Rogue** called t tell us over the weekend for Sta Bach and for Frank Buckley o Huntington and group, over 100 lbs. of macks were taken fishin from 90-110' of water, 195° out o the inlet.

Charter boat **Apus** called to sa flounder holding up very well a Squaw Island, catches averagin 8-12 flatties per person from ½ to lbs. Heavy chumming necessary Mackerel excellent at the 80' mark charters getting anywhere from 300 500 fish per trip. The boat still ha some summer dates available.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station told us tha on Sunday Anthony Cosestino an Joe Poggi had 75 flounder taken o mussels and clams. Two of th regular sharpies, Joe Decker an Eddie Durand returned with 5 flounder all over 1 lb. in weight They returned everything under lb. and also had a 2½ lb. fluke. Thi catch was made on mussels an worms. Ed reminded that incomin tide has been the most productiv and named Middle Bay, Nort Channel, and Cinder Creek as som of the more worthwhile spots. Black fish are at the bridges but gettin bait has been a problem for every one. Mackerel are plentiful offshor and are running 1½ to 2 lbs.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie of **Beckmann's Tackl** reports loads of mackerel offshor with the main body of fish in 70 fee of water. Charlie's brother Bil fished aboard the **Captain Al** severa days during the week and loaded u with these small members of th tuna family. Charlie also spoke o

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ackfish at the bridges but here ain he has run into a problem quiring the popular crab bait. ounder fishing has slowed consid-ably.

The Commodore reports pretty od flounder Saturday, with Sunday ore picky. On Saturday, Bob itchell of Franklin Square boated keepers averaging 1 lb. but fat. em working the old oyster beds off e school. Vinnie Killian of Long each took the pool with a 2 lb. 8 . flatties while Tom Rupp of narsie bagged 30 keepers Sat. nday's average was 10 flounder r man. Clem will be trying for ke along with flounder this week he know they are there and some e being taken.

Skippy's Bait and Tackle reports acks at buoy 4 outside Deb's, avy. Macks in abundance! More g and whiting along the beach an you can imagine, mostly ling. is is in 20-25' of water. Good ackfishing at bridges and rocks. ounder moving into the channels w. Try Duck Pt. or the Cedarhurst acht Club on the ebb on mussels d worms, with clams for the gger fish. Inlet is full of horseshoe abs and the ocean is paved with g.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina repor-d that a party of 3 Astoria anglers ad a great catch of 108 keeper ounder taken at Duck Point on orms. They used lots of mussel um. Weaks were taken over the eekend in the State Channel, some ent to 12 lbs. Plenty of macks utside.

Captain Bruce on the **Nyar I** called o tell us he's been fishing the ocean or whiting and ling and his charters re getting 20-40 fish a man up to 4 os. Macks were terrific over the eekend, that you can fill your boat n a half hour. The charter for erald Charlton on Sunday saw him i hook with 35 ling and whiting and sack of mackerel.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Sy Rubin of **Hennings Fishing tation** reported pretty good floun-er fishing on Sunday in Reynolds hannel, at Buoy 5, and off of the edarhurst Yacht Club. Mackerel utside from Buoy 4 to the NB Buoy. ome nice ling and whiting are eing taken out of the 56th Street ole off of Rockaway Beach. Blacks re at the Atlantic Beach Bridge and etters have been taking some eakfish and bass mixed in with eir bunker catches.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait & Tackle spoke of ome flounder and a couple of blacks t the bridges. Some very good lounder fishing along with some mackerel at the Tin Can Grounds on mussel chum and worm bait.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The **Zephyr** reports that the Sea-bright area has been producing some blackfish up to 7 pounds and nice sea bass for anglers fishing clams, fiddlers, and green crabs. Catches have run 5-8 blackfish per person and 15-25 seabass per day. The boat is also whiting and ling fishing at the Cedars and plenty of 5 gallon pails are being filled.

The **Pilot II** reported tough black-fishing because of cold waters along the Jersey Coast. On Sunday some blackfish up to 8 pounds were taken on skimmers and green crabs. Seabass are starting to show up in the catches. The boat also did well fishing for ling in the 1-1½ pound range.

The **Blue Sea III** had an excellent weekend fishing from the Warrior Buoy to Augies Lump. The whiting and ling ranged from ½ to 2½ pounds. Catches ran from a 5 gallon pail to a 100 pound bag per man.

The **Amberjack V** took plenty of mackerel fishing buoy 4 over the weekend, catches running up to a full bag per person. The boat has been filling burlap bags with whiting and ling at the Tin Can Grounds during their night fishing trips. For those who enjoy fishing Nantucket, the **Amberjack** still has a few openings left on their next trip. See ad for details.

The **Atomic II** fished south of Cholera on Saturday and Sunday and did well on the biggest king of mackerel and nice sized whiting. Plenty of fish were taken up to a high hook of 85 mackerel and whiting.

Captain Stan Kreisler of the charter boat **Babe** called to say Sunday's charter for Allen Goldberg and Company saw a total of 125 flounder on worms and clam and 25 whiting plus scattering of sea bass taken at the area of the warrior buoy up to the jetty. The macks were taken a little further off the beach, for a very successful and enjoyable trip.

Mike's Tackle Shop right across from the Sheepshead Bay fleet confirms the good mackerel catches working the NC buoy area and a little to the southeast. Some flounder still being picked at Sandy Hook, but it's nearly over. Blackfishing fair but plenty of whiting and ling to be caught and the **Blue Sea III** did a great job on whiting both Saturday and Sunday.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny of **Santo's Sport Shop** reports that there is still good flounder fishing at Piers 17 and 18, Great Kills Park, and Princess Bay. Some bass are being taken by casters at Sailor's Snug Harbor,

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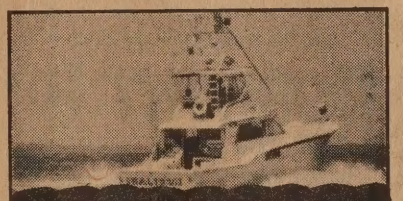

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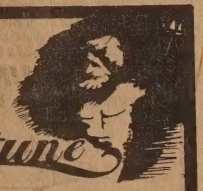

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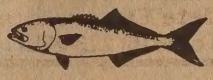

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Jersey Street, and Penny's Beach on worms. The fish run from shorts up to about 5 lbs. A few fish have been taken on bucktails at Cliff Street. Blacks are at the jetties and the old piers and Stan has had a number of reports of croakers being taken in the area. This has not happened in many years.

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WEAKFISH

GREENPORT

Captain George Porter's **Brand X** has been enjoying fantastic flounder action all week with the largest pool fish of the week going 3¾ lbs. Everyday the pool fish is over 3 lbs. Most days the boat is totalling over 200 big keepers per day, fishing Gardiner's Island and Petty's Bight. Between 6 and a dozen blackfish a day to 4 plus lbs. are being boated on flounder rigs. An 8 lb. blackfish was taken this week also. Flounder are being caught on mussel skimmers and worms. Weakfish are coming, so come down NOW for these big fat flounder, says George.

Capt. Richard Jensen of the **Nancy Ann** asked us to remind his followers that he will begin weakfishing on Monday, May 14th at 6:00 a.m. He will be sailing Monday through Friday and fishing will be by reservation only.

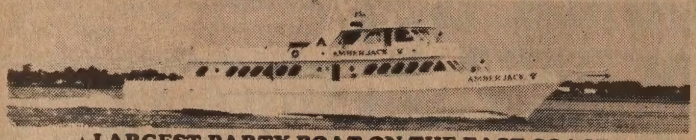
Art White of **AP White Bait Shop** reports good flounder fishing in the Gardiner's Island and Petty's Bight area. Fish are large averaging 1½ lbs. with some running to 3¾ lbs. Fish are being taken on mussels, sand worms, and skimmer clams. Chumming is essential. Good mackerel fishing continues at the Greenport Breakwater and some anglers have begun taking weaks at Jessups.

SOUTHOLD

Ace from the **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** excitedly reported that "The weakfish are in." One boat returned with 15 weaks up to 10 and 11 lbs. taken on Salty Dogs and squid strips at Buoy 17. Mackerel are still in heavy at Jessups and flounder fishing is holding up at South Ferry, Smiths Cove, Long Beach, and Mashomack Point. Fish are averaging 1½ lbs. and are running up to 3½ lbs. Sandworms and mussels both produce fish. Mussel chum is necessary for worthwhile fishing.

★SHEEPSHEAD BAY★

★NEW AMBERJACK V★



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EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 4.)

Johnny had said it was a permanent fish trap, we decided to investigate the matter further. Last Monday evening (April 30), I personally went to the refreshment stand at Montauk Point State Park and invested a dime to look through one of the telescopes there to see if I could observe the supposed trap from this elevated point. Sure enough, I **could** see the telltale poles of a trap complex, but due to the angle of my viewpoint, it was impossible to determine its exact location. So on Tuesday, publisher Rich Reina and I drove down to the beach and North Bar itself in L.I.F.'s four-wheel drive vehicle to physically inspect the trap's location.

What we discovered was that although the trap had not been constructed on the North Bar itself, it was directly adjacent to it and within only a few hundred feet. While it probably will not interfere with the **physical** act of casting, the trap's location will have several effects on the quality of fishing a surf fisherman casting from North Bar will experience.

It is important to understand that North Bar is primarily an "outgoing water" fishing location. While fishing for striped bass, bluefish and weakfish is often fantastic during the ebb tide here, it is a proportionate rarity to experience the same quality of fishing during the flood tide (incoming water). During outgoing water, game fish move in a direction running from Shagwong Point towards North Bar, feeding in the cove between the two points of land. Pre-fish trap, the path of these fish moving down the width of the cove would bring them to within casting distance of those fishing from North Bar. Obviously, the fish trapper in this case agrees with this premise, because the location of the trap necessitates that it will only be productive during outgoing water.

However, the location of the fish trap will have the effect of preventing the fish from reaching North Bar—acting as a "roadblock" in their path. Furthermore, what fish that did avoid being captured by circumnavigating the trap would be moved further offshore in the process, re-routing them out of casting range. Even if this re-routing were a mere hundred feet, it may as well be a hundred miles as far as the surfcaster is concerned. The ominous physical presence of the trap also has a strong psychological effect: needless to say, a luckless fisherman will be quick to blame the trap as the cause of his misfortune. But in any case, the location of this trap will effectively eliminate North Bar as being a surfcasting mecca by virtue of removing the surf fisherman's access to the fish. Therefore, the fish trap was directly interfering with the rights of recreational sportfishermen.

On this basis, and on this basis alone, The Long Island Fisherman decided to seek the removal of the trap.

The first step was to determine if the trap was legal, which was not as easy to find out as it may seem. What government body had jurisdiction? State, Federal, or both? If New York State had jurisdiction, which **department** within the State had it—the Department of Environmental Conservation or the Department of Parks and Recreation? What permits were required? Had they been obtained? What was the name of the individual who constructed the trap? Finding out the answers to these questions required more than two dozen phone calls over a time span of two days during which we went through an educational process on jurisdictions, permit applications, etc. But our efforts proved worthwhile.

The results of our investigation showed us that history has a way of repeating itself. The individuals who had constructed the fish trap were the **same individuals** who had created the well-publicized social conflict a few years ago by setting their gill net around surfcasters casting from Split Rock at Montauk, thereby interfering with the rights of recreational fishermen. (Who says lightning doesn't strike twice?) One would think that the individuals would have learned a lesson after a few perhaps over-zealous surf fishermen re-arranged the shape and location of their net, but their most recent actions indicate otherwise.

Our investigation disclosed that a clearance was needed for the trap's location from the Army Corps of Engineers (figure **that** one out, guys!). The individuals had applied for and received such clearance, but this clearance **only** meant that the trap's location would not interfere with navigation— it **did not** give authorization to actually construct the trap itself. Before this could be done, a permit was required from the Department of Parks and Recreation because the trap would be located in water on the boundary of Montauk Point State Park, and therefore the D.P.&R. has jurisdiction over the use of the bottom land. This permit had **NOT** been obtained, nor had it even been applied for by the individuals concerned. Whether this failure was due to either ignorance of, or indifference to this permit requirement on the part of the individuals has not been determined at this point. For whatever reasons, failure to obtain

(Continued on next page.)

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NEW SUFFOLK

Captain Marty's Fishing Station told us that on Sunday Fred Lando and his friend Ronnie had a super catch of 37 weakfish up to 10 lbs. taken in the South Race on Salty Dogs, bucktails, and jelly worms. Rich Lester and his companion had 10 weakfish up to 10½ lbs. fishing in the same general area. Buoys 23-30 have the best concentration of weakfish at the moment. Flounders up to 2 lbs. still around and Marty told of atleast 2 dozen porgies averaging around 2 lbs. brought into the station over the weekend. Some were taken at the South Race others were taken at the Middle Grounds. One anglers had 2 blackfish at the South Race that weighed in at 8½ lb. and 6 lbs.

NOYAC

Barbara of **Noyac Marina** reported that the weakfishing broke open over the weekend. Eleana and Tom Loreto returned with a nice catch of weaks from the Buoy 17 and 18 area on Sunday. Eleana topped Tom's 10¼ pounder with a 10½ pounder. Jelly worms produced these fish. Another party returned with 17 weakfish up to 12 lbs. taken from the same area on Salty Dogs and jelly worms. For those interested in flounder, Rick Atman and Lou Greco both of Brooklyn, fished Smiths Cove on Thursday and managed 105 flounders up to 2 lbs. 2 ozs. using corn and mussel chum and bloodworms for bait.

PECONICS

Speck's Bait and Tackle tells of weakfish all throughout the Peconics. Beach fishermen are doing best at Cow Neck. Pete Godowski late Friday night had a 9 and 10 lber. on squid strips. Steve Skurka Jr. of Southampton and Steve DeMichiel scored with 8 weaks from 5-15 lbs. while mackerel fishing with no net on an ebb tide at the Peconics buoy 25. This was also on squid strips. These fish were "Finger gaffed." Also, good weakfish catches at Robin's Island. One skiff took 15 weaks on jelly worms in the 7-8 lb. class for two anglers. Snowshoes are a big number at Gardiner's Island. Joe Mantobi, Dick Pasterelli, Bud Lavalle, and Mike Mantobi fished Promised Land off Cartwright Island for a total of 75 big flounder. Twelve were over 4 lbs., three of which were close to 5 lbs. Nothing was under 2 lbs. This was all on worm and mussel.

3 MILE HARBOR

Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station reports that Dom Deraneri of Howard Beach on Tuesday had 55 flounder up to 3½ lbs. on mussels. Sunday saw George Theuret of Richmond Hill take a 5 lb. 1 oz. flounder at Gardiner's Bay. Bill says this is the best flounder season in 20 yrs. and most of the large fish taken in the bay are on mussel and mussel chum.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren's Bait & Tackle reported good flounder fishing at the Rose Grove on sandworms and mussels. Plenty of mackerel at Nassau Point and weakfish up to 11 lbs. at the South Race on jelly worms and Satly Dogs tipped with squid. Rumors of a couple of bluefish taken in the area.

EDITORIAL
(**Continued from previous page.**)

this permit were grounds for its removal.

When the Department of Parks and Recreation became aware of this situation, action was taken promptly and swiftly. Robert Ott, General Superintendent of the Long Island State Park Commission, informed the Superintendent of Montauk Point State Park, Frank Dickerson, to contact the individuals and order the trap's **immediate** removal. Unfortunately, Mr. Dickerson has informed us that they have been having difficulty in locating them. They don't have a telephone, and several visits daily to their residences have proved fruitless. But contact is only a matter of time, and should have been made and the removal order given by the time this report is being read.

The situation, however, was still fluid as of L.I.F.'s press deadline. Upon notification, the individuals can be expected to offer to apply for the permit retroactively. The danger here would be if the permit application process allowed the trap to remain for a prolonged period of time, overlapping into the recreational fishing season. But we have been assured by officials of D.P.&R. that, due to our expressed concern, this would not be permitted to happen, and the Department would take immediate action on the application. Obviously, at this point in time the Department is not able to say whether it would either approve or deny such an application because they have yet to even receive one. But Montauk State Park has been developed for recreational use, and past policy of the Parks Department indicates that such a permit would be denied.

We will bring you up-to-date with this developing situation next week. Although we anticipate eventual victory in this matter, we believe it will be a victory in a battle that should never have been fought. But we will be forced to fight many similar needless battles in the future until the commercial fishermen are finally convinced that when they attempt to interfere with the rights of recreational sportfishermen, we are going to fight back. The days of apathy are over.

Scott Simons

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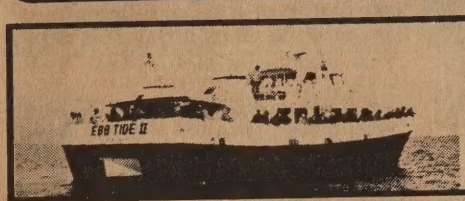

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ROCKY POINT

Rocky Point Fishing Stop reports that there are loads and loads of mackerel out in the Sound. Buoy 11, Buoy 9, and the Middle Grounds have been producing fast fishing for these little gamesters. Stan told us that casters have been taking blackfish averaging 3 to 5 lbs. at Hagerman's Landing and Herods Point. Occasionally fish up to 10 lbs. are taken. Flounders are being taken from the same areas also by beachcasters. For boatmen, Stan suggested the flounder fishing southeast and southwest of buoy 11. Small stripers are spread along beaches in this area and are being taken on small Kastmasters and Whiptails. Wading River and Herod Point have been productive in recent days. Some shad are also mixed in with the bass.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph's Fishing Station reports lots of mackerel right outside the harbor. Anglers taking all they want and Ralph reminds mackerel fans that the fishing will not last too long so come on out. Flounder fishing remains fair with fish up to 2 lbs. out in the sound at buoy 11 and smaller fish inside the harbor. Sandworms and mussels both produce fish. Blackfishing is picking up momentum and Ralph named Miller Place and the Water Tower as two productive spots. The blacks are taking sandworms and skimmer clam baits.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station told us that mackerel fishing has been excellent in the mornings with outstanding catches guaranteed for those who fish between 6:00 and 9:00 a.m. Plenty of flounder still around at White's Beach and Miller Place. Baits are sandworms and mussels with mussel chum necessary for a good catch. Some blacks up to 8 lbs. are mixed in with the flounder. A few weaks have been taken by mackerel fishermen at buoy 11 and school stripers in the early a.m. for those floating sandworms from Miller Place and beaches east of there.

KINGS PARK

Artie at **Sea and Ski** tells of 80 macks caught in 1½ hours between big buoy and Crane's Neck on Saturday's high tide, fish up to 2½ lbs.

"Dynamite" was the word used to describe the mackerel fishing in the local area. On Sunday George Finneran and his son John returned with 2 pails full of mackerel taken right outside the river. Also on Sunday Charlie Savvas and Emanuel Karalis returned with 200 mackerel and 50 flounder taken off of Sunken Meadow. The flounder were taken on sandworms. Tom Hart, Barbara Smith, and Alfie Dwyer had 100 mackerel in less than 2 hours over the weekend. A couple of blacks taken at both Crane's Neck and Callahans. This fishing should improve daily.

NORTHPORT

Tom Bowman of **Bowman's Sporting Goods** told of plenty of mackerel in the Sound and says now is the time to load up. Mackerel trees with a diamond jig on the bottom is the fastest way to load up a garbage pail with these scrappers. Tom named the Lilco Loading Platform, Callahans and Sunken Meadow as being consistently productive. Both flounder and blacks around for bottom fishermen but the flounder fishing is diminishing while the blacks are on

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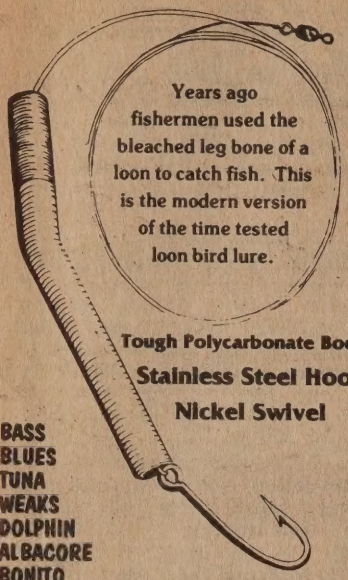
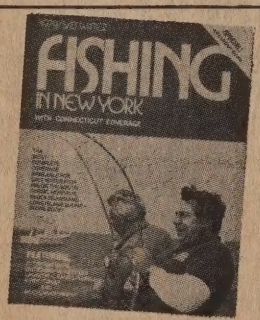


Troll With Loonie Bones

★See Your Local Dealer★



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the upswing. Small bass are being taken along the beach at Crabmeadow in the early a.m. on Tri-Fin Whiptails. A few small weaks at the Power Plant along with some mackerel.

HUNTINGTON

The **Betty W** reported all the macks fares could handle over the weekend. Big blackfish are starting to show, adding to the catch.

George Valentine of **Four Winds Bait & Tackle** reports mackerel "everywhere". There is still a pick of flounders out in the Sound at Eaton's Neck and Marshall Field. Fish that are around are good size and are being taken on sandworms and mussels. No bass news.

Ronnie's Bait & Tackle reports that mackerel fishing is "fantastic", blackfishing is getting started and flounder fishing remains worthwhile. Over the weekend, Ronnie weighed in an 11 lb. striper taken by Joe Albani on a Rebel from Oyster Bay at dusk. JoJo and Carl Fusaro found it impossible to get through the mackerel in an attempt at bass so they switched over and in a short time boated 300 lbs. of mackerel inside the harbor. One local customer who fished the Huntington area had a nice catch of flounder up to 2½ lbs. as well as a 5½ lb. blackfish. Henry Wenzel stopped to weigh in an 11 lb. 7 oz. weak taken out in the Peconic on a jelly worm.

Don Avondolio reports that his buddy Al Castka was surprised by a 7 lb. blackfish while fishing for flounder off Callahan's Beach. Anglers were chumming and using mussel bait on the hook. Other blacks being caught by surrounding boats, but smaller. Plenty of macks scattered all around.

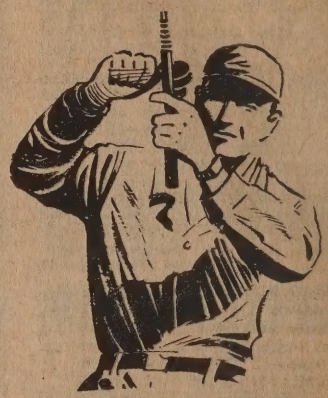
Captain Don's **Ever Ready** reports that on Saturday, Steve Brown and Joe Casamento both of Huntington Station had 31 and 26 good flounder respectively and Steve had the pool. It was a mixture of flounder and blacks. On Sunday Bill Collins and his fishing club took a few hundred mackerel in the area between Target Rock and Eaton's Neck. Starting Monday the boat will be night fishing macks and whiting. See ad for details.

COLD SPRING HARBOR

Mark at **Salty's Bait & Tackle** reports mackerel all over the place. Danny O'Neil and his son both members of the East Bay Anglers returned with 450 to 500 big mackerel taken off of Huntington over the weekend. Jonathan Crane, John Becker, and Doctor Elliot Utrecht had 50 mackerel right outside the harbor in a short time on Sunday. A few weaks are mixed in with the mackerel catches. Some flounders still around but they are smaller. Center Island Reef has been the scene of recent flounder activity. Blackfish up to 4 lbs. at Morris Rock and Center Island Reef.

GLEN COVE

The Lady Lou II reports excellent mackerel fishing most days finishing early due to full bags and weary arms. Captain Joe fished Bayville Saturday and Sunday. Friday's high hook was Jim Wickers of East Northport with 143 macks. Saturday's northwest winds resulted in a slow morning, but fares bailed macks all afternoon off Bayville. The boat's evening trips which have been productive will sail at a new time, 4PM. Joe says he should be getting two or three more weeks of mackerel.



NORTH SHORE WEST END
★ BEST BET ★
MACKEREL

CITY ISLAND

The **Ebb Tide II** did a very good job on large macks in Long Island Sound, from Execution Lighthouse all the way to Glen Cove. The captain is sorry for having to leave customers at the dock due to the boat filling up very early in the morning. Joe says people should come as early as possible on weekends to assure a spot on the boat. Captain Joe will also be sailing 4:30 p.m. mackerel trips Mondays through Fridays.

Jack's Bait & Tackle reports lots of blackfish taken on Sunday at the City Island Bridge, Hart's Island, and the Old CBS Tower. Clams and fiddlers took these fish. Small bass from shorts up to 4 lbs. are being taken at Hart's Ilsand and Turtle Cove on sandworms and small Rebels. Jack says he has never seen the mackerel so thick. Everyone is catching them and some go as big as 3 lbs.

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	7:25	7:50	8:13	8:32	8:07	8:23	9:00	9:13	10:57	10:56	10:50	11:03	7:22	7:41	5/10
FRI.	8:06	8:29	8:53	9:10	8:46	8:59	9:40	9:50	11:27	11:32	11:32	11:44	8:05	8:23	5/11
SAT.	8:48	9:08	9:33	9:50	9:25	9:38	10:21	10:30	—	12:04	—	12:12	8:48	9:06	5/12
SUN.	9:30	9:49	10:15	10:32	10:07	10:16	11:04	11:13	12:13	12:46	12:26	12:58	9:31	9:50	5/13
MON.	10:15	10:36	10:59	11:18	10:57	11:06	11:51	11:59	12:56	1:31	1:09	1:43	10:19	10:37	5/14
TUE.	11:07	11:29	11:47	—	11:53	—	—	12:40	1:42	2:19	1:56	2:33	11:08	11:28	5/15
WED.	—	12:04	12:08	12:42	12:02	12:51	12:52	1:39	2:34	3:12	2:49	3:27	—	12:02	5/16
THUR.	12:25	1:02	1:01	1:43	1:02	1:50	1:48	2:41	3:28	4:12	3:44	4:24	12:23	1:00	5/17

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	— 0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	— 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	— 0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	— 0 12
Seaside Park	— 0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	— 0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	— 0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	— 0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	— 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	— 0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	— 0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	— 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	— 0 38
Democrat Point	— 0 38
Coast Guard Station	— 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	— 0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	— 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	— 0 08
Herod Point	— 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	— 0 20
Truman Beach	— 0 42
Falkner Island	— 0 13
Sachem Head	— 0 10
Branford Harbor	— 0 07
New Haven Harbor	— 0 08
Milford Harbor	— 0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	— 0 03
Saugatuck River	— 0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	— 0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	— 0 14
Montauk Inlet	— 0 25
Montauk Point	— 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	— 0 33
Noank, Mystic River	— 0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	— 0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	— 0 10
Execution Light	— 0 06
Manhasset Bay	— 0 01
Hempstead Harbor	— 0 11
City Island	— 0 03
Rye Beach	— 0 28
Port Chester	— 0 09
Mamaroneck	— 0 08
New Rochelle	— 0 24
Davids Island	— 0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	— 0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	— 0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	— 0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	— 0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	— 0 08
Point Judith Harbor	— 0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	— 0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

5/1	5:57	7:57
5/6	5:50	8:04
5/11	5:44	8:09
5/16	5:39	8:14
5/21	5:34	8:19
5/26	5:31	8:24

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
5/26	5/4	5/12	5/18

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	3:45	**10:20**	4:15	**10:45**
Fri.	4:30	**11:00**	5:00	**11:30**
Sat.	5:15	**11:55**	5:45	—
Sun.	6:05	**12:20**	6:35	**12:50**
Mon.	7:00	**1:20**	7:30	**1:55**
Tues.	8:10	**2:25**	8:35	**2:55**
Wed.	9:10	**3:30**	9:40	**3:55**
Thurs.	10:10	**4:30**	10:40	**5:00**

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A cabin that's easy to get around when you get offshore.
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See your Grady-White dealer's line of comfortable fishing machines.
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